

THE NONCONFORMIST.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

A PROFITABLE INTERVAL.

CHRISTMAS Day is past, New Year's Day is to come. And the week's interval between the one and the other may be turned, this year at least, to profitable account. How we have spent during the preceding twelve months? connects itself almost inseparably with, How we propose to act during the twelve months before us? In a sense it is especially true, and may be emphatically declared, of the week now passing, "That which has been is that which shall be." We take our retrospect just as the year closes, and it is seldom that we find any of the affairs in which we are deeply interested so far completed that they will not constitute a part of the staple of the approaching year. Few of the efforts which now engage our attention, few of the movements to which we now lend a hand, few of the purposes which we have cherished in our hearts, and have associated with the best energies of our wills, break off precisely at the line of demarcation artificially separating the past and the future. The one way—or nearly always—runs into the other, and looking back naturally suggests looking forward across that line. In the one case we survey duties performed, in the other duties that await us. They are essentially of the same texture, and the contemplation of the first is a good preparation for those of the last.

The year 1876 has recorded a distinct and considerable portion of individual life, as it affects each of our readers. We leave it to them to glance over the record. They only have the reminiscences which would give it present and future interest. What high thoughts have become toned down! What noble and disinterested resolutions have inaction frittered away! What hopes have been extinguished! What sorrows have passed over us that, like the billows of the sea, have left behind them little trace unless in the memory! What abundant reasons we must detect for shame and contrition! But, thank God, it is not all darkness. He has shone out in unexpected bursts of light. We may and should humble ourselves, but we have not the smallest ground for abating our faith in Him. He changes not as we change. His Providence has led us hitherto, though it may be by ways that we do not understand; and He will lead us to the end. The past may yield but a poor account of what has come from

our dependence upon ourselves; but, so far from discouraging, should rather stimulate our reliance, in time to come, upon the beneficent power and influences of the Supreme Ruler of our affairs.

Ecclesiastically considered, the week's interval to which we have alluded is fruitful of analogous observations. 1876 may seem, at first sight, to have passed away without achieving any results which we had hoped from it. It has been a year of work in regard to the great object aimed at by Liberationists—of obscure work in many instances—of work which will yield visible results only after a long time. But, in truth, it has exhibited during its course cheering signs. Nothing to speak of calculated to raise their spirits has been done in Parliament. The altered position of the Burials Bill can hardly be regarded as an equivalent for the altered conditions of the Education question. Lord Sandon's Amendment Act shows some encroachments upon the restricted liberties allowed by the Act of 1870, and in the rural district, as well as in some urban parishes, will arm the clergy with a weapon which, if they are so disposed, they can wield to the disadvantage of national unsectarian education. Their power, however, to resist the pressure of the public will, is not so irresistible, we believe, as their friends had hoped, and their opponents had feared. It will be found, we venture to affirm, that they are unable to put back the clock of the world, to the misguidance of the rising generation. The recent elections to the London School Board, and to those of several of the great manufacturing towns, prove that the "leaven which leaveneth the lump" has been already powerfully operative. That which is true in regard to one important movement may also be true in regard to a similar one. The work is going on beneath the surface. The effects of it just now have only here and there become palpable. The casual elections to the House of Commons during the past year prove that it has not been altogether in vain, and we are justified in turning from what has been to what will be with unwavering faith.

Politically and morally considered, there is sufficient reason to "thank God and take courage." When we look at the strange infatuation and reckless misbehaviour of our present Premier, we are apt to draw conclusions filling our hearts with disgust and despondency. But the instincts of the people of England, quite independently of party proclivities, have risen far above the moral bondage in which they were supposed to be held by traditional policy. It was found when the Eastern Question offered a fitting occasion, that moral forces had been stored up in the heart of the English people with which it was dangerous to tamper. So spontaneous and so mighty, on behalf of doing right at any hazard, was the voice of the public, and so perseveringly sustained, that it may be said to have altogether reversed the direction in which Her Majesty's Government (consulting present expediency only) had thought fit to move; and the telegrams of the day from Constantinople may be read as a striking comment upon the speeches of Lord Beaconsfield, at Aylesbury, and at the Lord Mayor's banquet. We may rejoice in these public manifestations as affording satisfactory evidence that of the people of this country it cannot be said as yet "the whole heart is sick and

the whole heart faint." The same spirit displayed in regard to the affairs of the East may in due time display itself in regard to the affairs of the Establishment; and so what has been done during the past year, may have a fruitful influence upon questions of moment likely to be discussed in years to come.

The subject might be pursued along other lines of thought and action, but it is needless. We have a duty to perform, and one in the performance of which we take a peculiar pleasure. The proper time has come for us to greet our readers with all that esteem and affection which our long connection with them has accumulated in our heart. Thanking them with all fervour for the past, we express cordial desire and wishes that they may, each and all, receive the blessing of A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

LESSONS FROM HATCHAM.

It would be a strange thing if the Rev. A. Tooth were destined to play the part of the little mouse in the fable, which gnawed through the net that enmeshed the helpless lion. Notwithstanding present appearances, our glorious constitution in Church and State will probably prove too strong even for his persistent hardihood. The little rent he has made in the fabric will be patched up somehow; and the pretence will still be kept up of controlling by force of law the spontaneous impulses of the religious life. But what cannot be accomplished by one little mouse may ultimately be achieved by many. And it is only as a chance representative of an increasing number of rebellious priests that Mr. Tooth has any importance or significance. Would that this protest against the interference of the secular power with the worship of the Church, had been made by a more dignified martyr, on nobler issues, and in a more consistent manner. There are, or there used to be, in the Church established by law, men of purer spirituality and of more evangelical faith, from whose allegiance to the supremacy of Christ in his Church a far grander protest against the bondage imposed by an earthly Government might have been expected. But a too worldly prudence, degenerating into base expediency, taught them to strain their consciences until, as in a piece of overstretched and worn-out indiarubber, all power of recoil was lost; and the unworthy successors of Whitefield, Fletcher, and Simeon are now put to shame by the fierce bravado, with which a number of Romanising priests defy the State in defence of spiritual freedom as symbolised in chasubles, genuflections, and incense. The proximate cause of such a protest can hardly affect the believers in a purely spiritual Christianity with any other feeling than one of contempt moderated by pity. But the issues involved in the conflict bear so directly on the overstrained relations of Church and State, that events, ridiculous in themselves, are suggestive of very grave considerations. What the authorities concerned may do with their refractory priest, we do not know; and as they cannot thumbcrew, or hang, or burn him, humanity hardly requires us to care. But whatever they may do or leave undone, a resistless fate will make them instrumental in hastening on the inevitable issue. It has been suggested that Mr. Tooth, having resisted the entry of the clergyman sent by the Bishop to

take his place, should be indicted for "brawling" in church. Such a course would too obviously suggest that Lord Penzance deemed it imprudent to commit him for contempt. On the other hand, if the stronger and more straightforward course be adopted, the Ritualists will probably at once revive the ancient services for martyrs in prison. To let him alone is impossible. It would be an acknowledgment that disestablishment is an accomplished fact. And, indeed, already the spectacle of a Government official, allowed to repeat his defiance with ostentatious insolence after the lapse of a week, is hardly to be paralleled, except in times of national disorganisation, when there was practically "no king in Israel, and every one did that which was right in his own eyes."

Meantime the comments made in the public prints upon the case will have their influence in educating opinion. The better-known Conservative organs, anxious only for the *status quo* at any price, are naturally loud in their indignation against the perversities of human nature, which will persist in making an ill-balanced compromise impossible. But some more thorough going Tory papers, anxious for the *status quo ante*, are inclined to blame the law rather than the man who breaks it. Amongst these, our contemporary *John Bull* makes some remarks on English law, true enough so far as they go, but suggestive of inferences widely different from those which are actually drawn. We are informed that "in all its jurisprudence the English nation is sadly prone to neglect principles. Laws are made *pro hac vice* to attain some end which at the time seems desirable, without reference to those great principles which should underlie all legislation." This, it is said, was the case with the Public Worship Regulation Act, and hence the "disastrous confusions" which arise. Now, if the Established Church is to wait for justice and freedom until English habits of legislation are radically altered, that is the same thing as saying that it must wait until "the Ethiopian changes his skin, and the leopard his spots. If Mr. Darwin may be trusted, such changes do take place, but the half-dozen million of years, or so, required for their accomplishment, place them beyond the range of present and practical interests. But we are not in the least degree inclined to allow that the English habit is a defect. On the contrary, in a free nation it is absolutely impossible, with due regard to the highest interests, that legislation should be conducted otherwise. The reason of our unsystematic procedure in law-making lies not in the want of idealism, as our French and German neighbours suggest, but rather in an excess of idealism, such as, in their view, would be fatal to all order and government. Idealism requires individuality, and individuality implies freedom. Our method of pursuing ideas in England is to encourage the individuality of character to which alone ideas are revealed. In family government, in personal conduct, in commercial enterprise, in benevolent undertakings, our habit is to leave the development of ideas to spontaneous impulse as much as possible. We shrink from imposing one common type upon all lest it should repress and stifle any better idea that might spring up in some unexpected quarter. The whole aim of our laws has, in general, been to secure for every man the fullest liberty to act up to his own idealism, so long as he does not interfere with a similar liberty on the part of others. But such legislation must necessarily be tentative and experimental. The extent to which each individual man's pursuit of his own ideal interferes with a similar pursuit in other men is only found out by experience. Nay, the points of collision are hardly ever identically the same in two successive generations. All, therefore, that the government of an extremely ideal nation can do is to take note of such difficulties as they arise, and to neutralise them as well as it can.

This is precisely the policy of our English jurisprudence. It is exactly because the nation itself is so transcendently ideal in its aims, and so individualistic in its methods, that its government is conducted to so large an extent on the lines of practical expediency. In one age landlord tyranny seems a matter of course; and the most prevalent ideal is that of loyalty to a natural leader. It is not for legislation to interfere with this. All that it attempts is to remedy proved inconveniences and dangers in the recognised relations of landlord and tenant. But in another age, when another prevalent ideal supersedes that of the feudal system, and landlord tyranny would stifle a manifestly growing individualism, then a Ballot Act, or an Irish Land Law may be necessary. So, when the authority of a father in his own family required protecting against the State, the law lent itself to the existing exigency, and allowed a parent even to bring up his child in brutal

ignorance, if he chose. But in a different time when the prevalent ideal is that of an educated constituency, and when the obstinacy of the parent is recognised as an injury to the individuality of the child, the law interferes again for the adjustment of apparently conflicting rights, and passes an Elementary Education Act.

In fine it is an advantage rather than a disadvantage—a proof of the extreme ideality of the national character rather than the reverse—that, as the *John Bull* says, "laws are made *pro hac vice* to attain some end which at the time seems desirable." But we are quite at one with our contemporary in thinking that this kind of legislation is very unsuitable to a Church, and that it would be better to have no Established Church until a different national habit is possible. A Church is a congregation of faithful men, who all have the same ideal of life. Now it is to the interest of the nation that such congregations should be encouraged to the utmost, and should be protected in the spontaneous pursuit of the ideal they have in view. But this is not Establishment. Under an Establishment an ideal is prescribed by law. Of course people do not come up to it. And then a legislation of expediency tries to obviate the inconveniences that arise. But the inconveniences spring from the prime fallacy of the original attempt to prescribe by law a nation's religious ideal. Hence, as *John Bull* says, "the disastrous confusions which must ultimately arise when such principles are neglected." If this lesson is forced on the public mind by the extravagance of Ritualism, it may yet turn out that even chasubles, capes, and tunicles have had their uses.

MR. GORDON AT TORQUAY.

Mr. Gordon has been visiting Devonshire during the last week, and in the course of his journey has ventured into the headquarters of the Devonshire Church Defence Institution—Torquay—and held a meeting there on Monday, Dec. 18. There seems, according to some expressions used at the meeting, and in the local *Torquay Times*—to which we are indebted for a very admirable report of the proceedings—to have been some doubt as to the expediency and as to the success of the meeting. However, "success succeeds," and Mr. Gordon's success was undeniable.

The meeting was held in the Bath Saloon, where there was a large attendance. Mr. W. Browne took the chair, and several local supporters of the movement were present. The chairman made a frank address, after which Mr. Gordon rose, and in his first sentence described his position:—

He said that he was a stranger to the meeting, and he spoke there under the penalty of public criticism. The moment he had done, discussion would be invited, and he hoped to have a fair and impartial hearing. (Hear, hear.) He would be happy to hear what any other gentleman had to say when he had finished. (Applause.) They had had recently in that hall, he believed, during the course of one evening, a series of attacks upon the Liberation Society, unequalled, so far as his experience went—and it had not been a small experience—to put it in the kindest possible way, in their passionate misunderstanding of the whole case of the Liberation Society from beginning to end. (Hear, hear.) He did not impute a wilful perversion of the aims of the society, but he honestly maintained that there was in the case of all the speakers on the subject most certainly a painful ignorance of the proposals of the society; and that being so, no wonder that they fell into more than the usual blunders, and made themselves conspicuous and ridiculous. (Applause.) He was there on the part of the Liberation Society to enter a dignified protest, and to submit to them on certain broad lines what the society was, and to let that statement of facts be the best and most fitting answer to the speeches.

Mr. Gordon went on in a partly serious, partly humorous way to criticise Archdeacon Earle and other speakers at the recent Church Defence meeting, maintaining, all through, the position held by the Liberation Society with remarkable keenness of reply and aptitude of reference. One or two quotations will perhaps best illustrate the lecturer's style and mode of dealing with his opponents. In replying to the charges that the Liberation Society was a society of Dissenters, and that its meetings were packed with roughs, he said:—

That Society was not a Society of Dissenters. It was a peculiarity of the Society that if they offered money to it, they were not asked if they went to church or chapel. (Laughter.) There were many stout Churchmen earnest supporters of the Liberation Society. There were many earnest and devoted clergymen supporters also. There was a canon in his own diocese (for it was his own diocese—(laughter))—who had been for years a subscriber to the Society. When this was so, what right had the gentleman to say that Liberationists were for the most part infidels? It was not meeting the case. It was too late in the day to call a man an infidel because they could not meet his arguments. He told them they understood them. (Applause.) To talk like that was to make a miserable jest of the whole business, which would recoil upon the head of the individual who indulged in it. (Applause.) And he had to ask if fellow citizens of theirs, who were known as infidels, had not a right to an opinion on this ques-

tion? If they could not deal with infidelity unless they robbed a man of his citizenship, they had better let alone infidelity altogether. (Hear, hear.) If they thought themselves better, he asked them if it were not better to persuade an infidel than to abuse him. With that understanding he would next notice the extraordinary statements made by the chairman on the occasion referred to. He said that the Liberationists held meetings packed with roughs. The lecturer was bound to say that his experience of Liberation meetings, and it averaged five or six meetings a week, was that a great many of their meetings were packed with roughs; but he would leave his audience to say what was the designation of and who were the roughs that packed the meetings. That chairman did not mean to say that it was the Liberationists that broke up their own meeting at Exeter. (Hear, hear.) Let them have credit for a little more sense than that. Who packed the meeting with roughs? The answer was obvious. Why, he was there, the survivor of half a hundred broken-up meetings; and he had been met much more by the argument of force than by the force of argument. In that Church of England they were mixed up with all sorts of people, and some of them wished to be relieved of some of them, and that was why they desired that their friends should take up their bed and walk. (Laughter and applause.)

Soon afterwards an appropriate point was made with regard to Church property—after a calm statement of the argument at issue—

Then it was contended that these endowments were of very varied antiquity, from more than 1,200 years ago down to the present time. How could endowments that date from 1,200 years ago be justly in the hands of an institution which at the best has not been in existence 300 years? The State had made one set of regulations for one side or the other—Roman Catholics, Protestant Episcopalians, in and out, just as it pleased, and had managed the whole thing, not with the view to the pleasure of Churchmen, but as to that of the State, which asserted its right not of tenancy, but of ownership, which he could assure them was a much more essential thing. (Loud laughter.) If they asked for the Act of Parliament which transferred the property from Church to Church, none existed. Dr. Freeman said that such an Act was never necessary, because the clergy were never slow to obey the State; and the same set of men stood to their guns all the same, whether a Roman Catholic or Protestant Episcopalian Government came in—in fact, they were regular Vicars of Bray. (Laughter.) They went down Roman Catholics and came up Protestant Episcopalians, and it was all right. (Renewed laughter.) They never thought of doing what they do to-day—disobey their masters. The lecturer continued the quotation, "It was not correct to speak of the endowments as belonging to the Church; the Church as a body possesses no property." This is a compliment to some thirty years of agitation. (Laughter.) Did they mean to say that without thirty years of agitation by the Liberationists the Church Defence Society would have had that piece of light? The Church of England is the State of England, and if it be not, it was time to cease calling herself the Church of England. If she were national she was established by law; it was not her law, it was ours. "These properties," said the archdeacon, "are held by a legal tenure." Who are the parties who hold it? It was the parishioners who elected their officers to do their work, the parishioners were the holders. In a parish in Northampton, a Baptist minister was the churchwarden. (Loud laughter.) And the agricultural labourers, led by that Joseph Arch, had elected parishioners of their own number, to manage what they used to think was parson's property, but what they have been taught to think is parish property.

Here is another quotation:

The English people were very sensitive on matters of life interest. (Hear, hear.) The Bishop of Ely preached a Church Defence sermon, and he went on to describe the Liberation work as seeking to turn out the clergy bag and baggage right away. Nobody seemed to have believed him, for the collection on that Church Defence Sunday in the cathedral was only 84. 3s. 9d. (Loud laughter.) No wonder that under such circumstances the clergy and their friends had found it a more expeditious way to deal with the Liberationists and say they packed their meetings with roughs, as a Churchman had said. They proposed to deal with the property for the nation by the nation. The property was not intended for the Protestant Episcopalian Church or any Church at all. A great deal of the property was held under the terms of the clauses of charters, which direct for what purposes it should go. For what purposes then? For the support of the clergy only? No. Their endowments were directed to be spent on free schools, the relief of the poor—(applause)—the construction of roads and bridges. (Renewed applause.) The charter of Ely Cathedral contains a clause, providing that no small proportion should go to constructing roads and building bridges throughout the diocese.

Mr. HICKLIN: Just so.

Mr. GORDON: Just so! but the clergy have all of it. (Loud laughter.) It was all very well for their friend to say, "Just so." On a cold day they said "Just so" to the poor fellows outside shivering in the cold, when they, having what should be given to the poor, sit by their fireside. "Just so," indeed. The clergy had had their share. (Applause.) Now build the bridges. (Loud applause.) They intended that duty should not be done to the clergy alone, but to all. The tithes payments for hundreds of years went to build their churches and support the poor. What spoliation and robbery? Let the parson stand aside once more, and say, "Come now, it is the turn of God's poor." (Loud applause.) He would not quarrel about terms if they liked to call that spoliation. (Applause.)

Mr. Gordon went on taking up point by point with great effect, and in a manner that brought down the frequent cheers, as well as laughter, of the audience, and concluded with hearty applause.

Mr. Hicklin, the Secretary of the Devonshire Church-Defence Association, rose to reply, but said little, remarking that he would hold a meeting, on Dec. 28, to discuss the points. Mr. Gordon followed, and then Mr. Hamby; but very little came of the discussion, neither of Mr. Gordon's opponents being able to say much at the time. The meeting

—an admirable one for Torquay—closed with the usual vote of thanks.

The *Torquay Times*, commenting upon this meeting, says:—"Whatever varied opinions existed last week as to the probable success of the Liberation meeting held on Monday at the Bath Saloon, there is but one opinion now that the meeting is over. Some 600 or 700 men listened for over two hours to a mild disputation upon the principles of a State-Church in England, and were gratified at an exposition of the objects of the Liberation Society, and a reply to recent misrepresentations concerning it, which, we are inclined to believe, favourably impressed even Churchmen. There was just enough opposition to stimulate the lecturer's earnestness, and it was of that character, too, which necessitated no departure from the lines of argument upon which the address had been framed. There was a total absence of unreasoning interruption, and altogether the meeting was as great a compliment to the good sense of Torquay as to the Liberation Society. Mr. Gordon replied with characteristic straightforwardness and force to the remarks, more or less varied in their rudeness, made by Mr. W. Kitson, Archdeacon Earle, Mr. Burbidge Hambly, and Mr. W. H. Kitson at the Church Defence gathering of last month. He declined to follow them in the exaggeration of their language, and contented himself and satisfied his audience by turning their utterances back upon them as a fit characterising of their conduct and that of their party." After referring to several incidents of the meeting, the *Torquay Times* adds, with respect to the Church Defence Association:—"We can scarcely hope that Mr. Gordon's straightforward and drastic address will purge the Association of its virus, for its moving spirit knows no discretion, and revels only in unrestrained and unregulated zealotry in abusing and misrepresenting those who disapprove its action. It has, however, done one good, viz., the calling of a lecturer into the town who has at once contributed to the public knowledge upon an important public question, and convinced Churchmen of the utter worthlessness for good and power for evil of the Church Defence Association."

EXTRAORDINARY SCENES AT ST. JAMES'S, HATCHAM.

It will be remembered that the order of the Court of Arches inhibiting the Rev. A. Tooth from officiating for the term of three months within the diocese of Rochester was served upon that rev. gentleman on Sunday, the 17th inst. It thereupon became necessary for the Bishop of Rochester to consider whether (in the terms of the Public Worship Act) "due provision was otherwise made for the spiritual charge of the parish." His lordship proceeded to revoke the licence of the Rev. W. H. Browne, the assistant curate, and to appoint as curate in charge the Rev. Canon Gee, D.D., a rural dean and one of the proctors in Convocation for the clergy of the diocese, and one of his lordship's chaplains; and notice of the appointment was given to the Rev. A. Tooth and the churchwardens. On Sunday morning, a few minutes before the usual hour (half-past ten) of morning prayers at St. James's, Canon Gee, attended by the bishop's secretary, entered the church by the western door, and was at once met by the Rev. A. Tooth and the churchwardens, behind whom were ranged some thirty or forty persons, who formed a cordon intercepting his further progress. The Rev. A. Tooth, who was habited in cassock, surplice, and stole, then proceeded to read a document containing a protest against the jurisdiction of the court by which he had been inhibited, and stating that he would not permit Canon Gee to officiate or to take any part in the services in that church. A copy of this document was applied for by Canon Gee and was promised to be furnished hereafter. After producing the bishop's licence, a copy of which was at the same time handed to the churchwardens by the bishop's secretary, Canon Gee addressed himself to those gentlemen, and received for reply that they entirely adhered to the course of action taken by Mr. Tooth, and it was evident from the remarks of other persons present that they had come to the church for the purpose of supporting the latter rev. gentleman. Canon Gee finally expressed his intention of retiring, under protest, and the proceedings, which had been conducted on both sides with courtesy, terminated.

In consequence of this event it was expected that next day (Christmas Day), the bishop himself would have come from Rochester and insisted upon conducting the service. No one, however, came, and at eleven o'clock the church was densely crowded, and morning service commenced. There was a procession more elaborate than any which has yet been witnessed at St. James's. Two crossbearers were followed by acolytes and choristers, and at accustomed points six very beautiful banners were carried in the procession. One of these was a white moire-antique banner, edged with blue, having in the centre what might be called a monogram of the Blessed Virgin, and on the top the words embroidered, "Sancti Dei Genitrix." Another banner represented the chalice and the host as both are known in the Roman Catholic Church, and the other banners bore portraits of Our Saviour and the Virgin Mary. The vicar wore a chasuble of silk, of the colour of that which is worn upon Christmas Day in the Roman Catholic Church as a sign of rejoicing. On this occasion nearly all the acolytes wore the skull cap of a Roman Catholic cardinal. After the Creed, Mr.

Tooth divested himself of his chasuble at the altar, and ascended the pulpit, the main feature of his discourse being the special characteristic of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which, he said, was her self-restraint. The text was, "Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart." From that great characteristic of the Blessed Virgin Mary they should all, he said, learn a great lesson in this season of their troubles, and that lesson was not to be cast down by what people said against them. Then the Communion was proceeded with. Nine acolytes came out from the sacristy to the steps of the altar, and at the elevation lifted immense wax-candles as high as they could hold them. Bells were at the same time ringing, and the whole chancel was clouded with incense. The altar itself was lighted by six wax candles, and on it was a profusion of beautiful flowers. At the close of the service Mr. Tooth turned his face to the congregation, and gave them his benediction, making the sign of the cross after the manner in which it is done at the mass in the Roman Catholic Church. A great deal of Gregorian music was used during the service, with which the whole congregation appeared evidently to sympathise.

THE SCOTCH ESTABLISHMENT.—GLASGOW CITY CHURCHES.

On Wednesday last a numerously-attended meeting of those opposed to Lord Provost Bain's scheme for the disendowment of the city churches was held in the Trades Hall, Glasgow, Mr. C. Cameron, M.P., presiding.

The CHAIRMAN, who was received with applause, said they were met to oppose a proposition endorsed by a committee of the Town Council of Glasgow, and now before that body, to hand over to the Established Church in the city, as a permanent endowment, a most valuable property, which at present formed a part of the common good of the city. It was practically that the nine city churches and 30,000*l.* should be handed over to the Church on the condition that the connection between them and the Corporation was put an end to. They objected to State-Churches and ecclesiastical State endowments on principle, and they strongly objected to being made parties through the action of their municipal representatives to the bestowal of what was practically a permanent endowment upon the Established Church in Glasgow. The inducement held out to them to forego their scruples on that point was the saving to the citizens of 1,200*l.* a year. But most of them considered that the life of the Establishment was drawing to a close. They knew, and they were content to know, that when disestablishment occurred, the life interests of individuals would be carefully protected. But they held that when the State-Church expired, its life-rent in their city churches should expire with it, and that the community should resume full possession of the property, of which, when the Established Church virtually included the entire population, it made over a life interest to that body. There was very little fear that in any future case of disestablishment, disendowment would be attempted on the lines on which it was attempted in the case of the Irish Church. If the Scottish Establishment was to be disendowed, as he believed it would be, he did not imagine there was the smallest chance of their being called upon, as was threatened, to pay 85,500*l.*, or, in other words, to incur a charge of 3,400*l.* a-year for ever in order to get rid of a present annual burden of 2,400*l.* So long as the Council contented themselves with efforts to lessen the annual loss which the community incurred through the maintenance of the city churches, they were heartily with them. But they most emphatically protested against their going a step beyond that, and saddling them with "pleasant arrangements" with the Established Church in the shape of permanent endowments.

The Rev. ALEXANDER OLIVER moved,—

That regarding the proposal contained in the Lord Provost's memorandum, and now before the Council for consideration, as an attempt in the interests of the Established Church in the city, and not in those of the city itself, so to alter existing arrangements that the congregations of that Church should be absolutely vested in a large amount of property, which is now part of the common good, and their ministers permanently and unalterably endowed, and this with the avowed object of securing these congregations and ministers against an anticipated measure of disestablishment, in which their just claims would be inadequately provided for, this meeting condemns said proposal as inequitable in itself, misleading in its form, and meant to burden the community in all time coming with the maintenance of religious ordinances for a few congregations, the members of which are as able and are as much bound as the majority of their fellow-citizens to maintain such ordinances for themselves.

The scheme of Lord Provost Bain had, he said, emanated without doubt from the Establishment. It was a confession not only that the relations between the churches and the Corporation had been unsatisfactory, but that in their opinion disestablishment was a certainty. On that confession they might ground pretty hopeful prospects, and although the battle might be a tough one, they could not fail to win.

Mr. GILBERT BEITH, in seconding, described Lord Provost Bain as the mouthpiece of the State Churches, or the Conservative party, for these two were one, the Church having ceased to represent the community.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. STEPHEN MASON moved—

That in the opinion of this meeting the proposal of the Lord Provost is extremely objectionable in itself, on the following among other grounds:—1. It confiscates and hands over for ever to the Established Church 45,000*l.*, which should fairly belong to the city as a surplus accruing to it from property in its possession, after building the proposed new churches in room of those which have become unsuitable, and so fulfilling all the obligations of this kind under which the city can be supposed to lie. 2. It takes 30,000*l.* more out of the funds of the city for the purpose of completing an endowment fund over which the city shall cease to have the least control, thus making absolute and perpetual an obligation which, sooner or later, would certainly come to a much less expensive end. 3. It ignores the prospect that, supposing the new churches built in more favourable localities, the revenue from seat rents would largely increase, and correspondingly diminish the loss which the city now suffers from their deficiency; and so, 4, while it professes to relieve the city of a burden, it in reality makes a large portion of the burden permanent, and commits the city to a mode of dealing with its property which virtually adds to its existing outlay for the Established churches, deprives it of a present relief to which it is entitled, and renders future relief impossible.

The Rev. Mr. SCRIMGEOUR seconded the resolution.

The Rev. Mr. SCOTT moved—

That for the reasons set forth in the preceding resolutions, this meeting resolves to meet the proposal with the most strenuous opposition, calls upon all Liberal members of the council to resist it to the utmost of their power, appeals to the community to withstand so insidious an attempt to forestall an equitable settlement so far as this city is concerned of the question of disestablishment, and appoints a committee (with power to add to their number) to watch over any further proceedings that may be taken in promotion of the scheme, and to adopt such measures by memorial to the council or otherwise as in their judgment may lead to its defeat.

Mr. HAMILTON seconded the motion, which, as well as the previous one, was adopted unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

The subject was brought before the Glasgow Town Council on Friday by Bailie Wilson, who said the city churches at present, as shown by the memorandum submitted to the council, caused a loss of 2,345*l.* to the Corporation annually, and owing to the position in which they were placed at present, that loss would go on increasing rather than decreasing. Ten years hence the loss might be 25,000*l.* As to disestablishment taking place during the next thirteen years, he could say for himself that it is a generation further off than it was ten years ago. ("No, no," and "Hear, hear.") Since 1832 the Established Church had greatly increased in Glasgow, and it had had a rate of progress nearly equal to that of the Free Church. He moved the adoption of the memorandum as the basis of negotiations as to the city churches. Mr. HAMILTON said he was disposed to leave the city churches as they were, and allow disestablishment to settle the question when it came.

Mr. WILLIAM MILLER pointed out that the endowments originally given for religion and education had for many years past been appropriated for the former alone. It surprised him that any committee should have brought forward such a scheme, and he considered it a significant fact that the measure had emanated from Churchmen. One thing it seemed to indicate was that they had some fears for the future, and wished to make what preparation lay in their power. It seemed to him that it would be better to accept whatever Parliament thought proper than to make the compromise placed before them.

The LORD PROVOST said there must have been some misunderstanding, as he did not purpose to permanently endow the Church. If the proposal was accepted, the money would, under the bill, be held in trust, as in Edinburgh, amenable to the jurisdiction of Parliament. He would never have been a party to making a gift of the money.

Mr. MILLER thought that if placed in trust for ecclesiastical purposes they would have little chance of getting the money back. The discussion that day would, he believed, do more for disestablishment than anything that had occurred since the passing of the Patronage Act. The ball had been set a-rolling by their opponents, and it should be kept going until the settlement could be obtained on fair grounds. It was a fitting opportunity for having the legal position of the Corporation defined. He therefore moved—

That while disapproving of the report, we remit anew to the Town Clerk to report to the Council the legal position of the Corporation with regard to the city churches, their rights and responsibilities.

Bailie MORRISON asked the Council to acquit every member of the committee of any intention in carrying out this scheme, except that of benefiting the corporation. As regards one of the three churches, it was by the action of the City Improvement Trustees practically the property of the Town Council, and this trust will erect another church on a site in some locality to be agreed on. The present proposal was practically to a large extent implementing that obligation. Suppose they paid 30,000*l.* for the other two churches to the ecclesiastical commissioners, and erect in their stead other two for 30,000*l.*, they would carry out the whole thing for 60,000*l.*, and they would have the sites of St. Enoch's and St. George's, which were very valuable. That, he thought, would carry out the avowed principle of every member of the board. If they thought it any benefit to the

corporation to wait till Parliament should settle the question, then he would say by all means wait. He did not believe in waiting, but believed in settling it that day.

Baillie SCOTT seconded Mr. Miller's amendment. He would, however, cordially agree that the town clerk should report as to the legal position of the corporation as to all the city churches, and their rights and responsibilities there anent.

Mr. NEIL submitted that they should build churches in neighbourhoods where they might be able to get an attendance, give the congregation one-half of the seat-rents for their trouble in collecting them, and to stimulate them to more active service in the cause of Christ.

Sir JAMES WATSON did not believe the Lord Provost or any one would bring forward such a scheme to the disparagement of the corporation and the benefit of the Church of Scotland; nor did he believe that the clergy had anything to gain by the proposed change. It was an injustice to the Presbytery of Glasgow to suppose that they were bringing this scheme forward by a side wind to the injury of the corporation. Even supposing disestablishment was to be secured within a period of ten years, looking to the compensation which the corporation would have to pay, he had no hesitation in saying that they would be the gainers by adopting the Lord Provost's scheme.

Treasurer OSBORNE was of opinion that these churches did not now belong to the corporation, but to the Church of Scotland. The only time the property seemed to belong to the corporation was when repairs had to be undertaken.

Mr. JAMES MARTIN had much pleasure in standing there an out-and-out Voluntary. He was glad the Lord Provost had brought forward this scheme, because it would rouse the slumbering, sleepy Voluntary clergymen over Scotland to make a bold stand in order to secure the severance of a connection, and let every man live in an honest way, without robbing or plundering his fellows.

Mr. BURT moved an amendment:—

While thanking the committee for their services, the Council does not consider that the memorandum forms a basis for negotiation.

He believed the churches the Corporation had to deal with were the churches which were doing the least good at the present moment. There was a heavy encumbrance on every Established Church; they were clogged, tied down, and it would be a great benefit if they were liberated from their State connection. The amendment was seconded by Mr. TAYLOR.

Mr. Baillie COLLINS found that within a gunshot of the ten city churches there were ten churches belonging to Dissenting bodies. In the latter there were 8,287 sittings let, producing a revenue of 4,246*l.*, against 676 sittings and a revenue of 2,166*l.* for the Established Churches. He still believed that the adoption of the memorandum would be financially economical to the council, but if he found a large proportion of the citizens opposed to the scheme on the ground that the principle was unsound, he would bow to their judgment.

The LORD PROVOST said the committee appointed to bring forward the report was composed of gentlemen of voluntary ideas, but as representatives of the ratepayers and the community they thought that they should do what they could to reduce the expenditure. To do that the committee had made this proposal, which, if carried out, would be a saving of 12,000*l.* a-year. It was evident that the mass of the Town Council did not adopt the views of the committee, and he thought it was his duty to harmonise the views of the members as far as possible. He thought that more information was wanted to enable them to come to a fair conclusion. He felt confident that when they got the information they would regret that they did not accept the terms of the memorandum; but, at the same time, he did not think it would be wise for the council to jump to a conclusion. He suggested that the following should be adopted in place of his original motion:—

That the committee be thanked for their report, but as the Town Council considered that they did not as yet possess sufficient information to enable them to come to a decision in the course recommended, they remit anew to the town clerk to report to the Town Council as to their legal position and responsibilities in connection with the city churches.

The Council refused to adopt the suggestion of the Lord Provost as a motion, and Mr. Miller, with consent of the Council, altered his motion so as to embrace the effect of the Lord Provost's suggestion, adding to his original motion that the committee be thanked for their services.

A vote was then taken between Mr. Burt's and Mr. Miller's amendments, the former being carried by a majority of eight. Mr. MATHIESON, with the consent of the Council, agreed to withdraw his amendment. This closed the discussion.

In reviewing the discussion the *North British Daily Mail* remarks:—"None of those who spoke in defence of the scheme could get beyond the line of argument which took for granted that the ratepayers were bound for ever to these bankrupt churches, that disendowment was distant, and that it was better to pay a lump sum of smart money now than to be annually called upon to make good an increasing deficit. Baillie Collins and Mr. Morrison spoke forcibly on the latter point; but their argument fails when faced with the objection that these churches are the property of the citizens, and that whatever the legal obligations of the citizens in the

matter of stipend, the same law which created the liability can free them from it, and yet leave them in possession of their property. What the provost proposed to do was, with the one hand to free us of the stipend deficit of two thousands odds a-year, but with the other to deprive the citizens of their property rights in buildings valued at more than 200,000*l.* And as a kind of blind to the whole affair, there was to be a gift of some thirty thousand pounds to induce our friends of the Establishment to take themselves off, 'bag and baggage,' from the Corporation funds. The scheme has received its quietus, but after so much discussion, it is not in the nature of things to be expected that the question of the city churches will now be allowed to sleep—at least not for the prophetic thirteen years of Baillie Wilson. These churches have been draining our funds since the disruption, and there is no likelihood that the present heavy drain will diminish, but every probability that it will increase. Mr. John Burns' assertion, in his recent speech at the *soirée* of the Barony congregation, that some of these churches are as empty and as cold as blown eggs, is not likely to be soon falsified. Are the ratepayers, then, quietly and tamely to submit to be mulcted for the support of churches which have almost no people in them, and for ministers whose services are not required? The thing is utterly preposterous. It has always seemed to us that the most direct step towards a lessening—though not of a removal—of the burden is to suppress two out of the present nine city charges. The two we would suppress are St. George's and St. Enoch's, and for this reason, they are so situated that while they are likely to be removed, their sites cannot be utilised for commercial purposes. But in seeking powers to effect this suppression, it should be provided that the ministers of St. Enoch's and St. George's should be transferred to the first vacancies in the other city churches. In this way they would be utilised, and their two stipends saved. Against this plan of suppression and transference there can be no objection on the score that the religious interests of the people would suffer. No sober-minded Churchman would affirm this. Nor is it a valid objection to say that the prestige of the Kirk would suffer, for that prestige, such as it is, is based on injustice. On the other hand, the ratepayers would be relieved of a good deal of the annoying burden which they must now bear. Unless something can be done in the way we have suggested, it will be better to wait patiently while working earnestly for general disestablishment; for we shall then undoubtedly obtain a more satisfactory settlement."

THE ECCLESIASTICAL RELATIONS OF WESLEYANS.

We extract the following from an article on "Mutual Toleration," in the last number of the *Watchman*:—"The difficulty and danger of politics in Methodism really begin when one Methodist would hinder another in Methodism because of his political opinion, and when it is sought to make Methodism a machine for suffocating political life on all sides of a question except the one to which the extinguisher belongs. Alienation because of differences in political opinions, and attempts to coerce all sides in the interests of one side, have sometimes done local mischief which never need have been caused had the parties realised the fact that, being one in Christ, it was their duty to agree to differ in action on public and progressive questions. Some people have sighed for the political unity which prevails among the Roman Catholics, and have mourned that Methodism was destitute of this unity. 'See how united these Papists are; let us as Methodists be equally united, and we shall carry all before us in politics.' Such have been the well-intended, though pernicious, sentiments which some have sought to plant in Methodism. But they have never succeeded, and we trust they never will. Their success is impossible unless the right of private judgment is to be abandoned, and Methodism is to be turned into a political machine. Methodists are not Papists crippled by the fetters of ecclesiastical bondage. They are free citizens, and it will be bad for themselves and worse for the State if all individuality and divergency is destroyed for the sake of a preposterous and Popish unity in those outside matters which form no part whatever of the essentials of Methodism. There is no more reason why we should all be of one shade of politics than there is that we should all work at the same trade. The freedom of the Methodist political vote, and the freedom of political action which corresponds to it, needs to be maintained and acknowledged, all round, everywhere, and again and again; and unless this double freedom is maintained the worst evils will ensue. The free vote cannot be separated from the free and public action. To tell a man he may vote quietly by means of the ballot, but that he must take no action whatever for the expression and for securing the success of his opinions, is a tyrannical attempt to bring about a system of coercion which would be injurious to Methodists as well as outside Methodism, and which would ultimately produce rebellion and division within it. We are free and united, not by silence and suppression, but by the Christian toleration of each other's political opinions and political action. Why should the Methodist Conservative wish the Methodist Liberal to vote for him because he is a Methodist, and why should the Methodist Liberal be angry because the Methodist Conservative will only vote for a candidate with whose politics he is

in essential agreement? When Mr. Forster brought forward his Education Bill in 1870, the Methodists differed about it at once, and took sides according to their convictions; and this was far better than that one side should stifle the other for the sake of external unity in national questions. There were different schools of belief and different lines of action; and what was the result? The peace of the Connexion was preserved by declaring it an open question, as all national questions ought to be. There is another important question which is fast ripening for national treatment. All who watch the course of public events know well that the question of disestablishment is the one great question of the future. It may not come to the front for some time, but unforeseen events may suddenly force it into prominence, and it may remain the one great national question until it is settled. Now what are Wesleyans to do in view of the coming crisis? There can only be one answer to this question: let them follow their own convictions without let or hindrance, or alienation from each other. Let those who believe the preservation of the National Church will be a national blessing carry out their convictions and defend the Church, and let those who think otherwise, otherwise act. There is, there can be, no other safe course of action for Methodism; and let the Wesleyans make up their minds to it and prepare for it. Whenever the voting on disestablishment comes there will be differences of opinion and action in Methodism. Some will go with the Church Defence Association, and some with the Liberation Society. But whichever side they take it should make no difference within Methodism. Let Liberationists and non-Liberationists meet in the same class, share in the duties of the same church, and at the same time support each other's freedom, and show the world that, while on national questions they widely differ, they still are one in heart because they are one in Christ. Let the crisis of the Church and State question come when it may, it can do Methodism no harm, if Methodists have habituated themselves to each other's different courses of action and belief. Whether the crisis come five or fifteen years hence it will be a sad and injurious thing if it finds the Wesleyans unprepared to agree to differ, and unaccustomed to different lines of action. When the day of settlement comes silence will be impossible. Inactivity will be impossible. And what is all our brotherhood worth if we cannot agree to differ? True brotherhood acknowledges diverse action, based on individual freedom. The application of this principle carried us through the education crisis, and it will carry us safely through the coming Church crisis."

In the course of a forcible article on the subject of "Political Dissenters," the *Methodist Recorder* remarks:—"The success of the nickname is coming to an end, for the design of it is seen, and the injustice of it is beginning to be acknowledged. Why should a Dissenter not be a politician? Why should he leave all political matters to be settled by the political members of another Church? A political Churchman is quite as bad as a political Dissenter, if there is any badness in the case at all. The question of the separation of Church and State is a political question, and can only be settled politically. The question of disestablishment and disendowment must be settled in Parliament, and not either in the meeting-house or the steeple-house. For a Dissenter to use his influence to get a man into Parliament who will vote for disestablishment is to take the only course open to him for the accomplishment of his convictions; and in doing it he only follows the political example of the pro-Churchmen. Churchmen take care to vote for members of Parliament who will uphold the Church, and to accomplish this accept the support of the body of licensed victuallers, and sometimes the patronage of the lowest pothouse. Churchmen should either cease from sneering about political Dissenters, or cease to be political themselves, and seek no political aid in Parliament for any Church question. The blindness of some of their partisans is something marvellous. They can be as political as they please and still be religious; politics are only wicked when associated with the other side. What are these political Dissenters, that they should be held up to so much contempt, and what have they ever done that they should be scornfully pronounced destitute of the true spirit of religion? The answer to this question is easily given. Some of the most religious men of our time, some of our most valuable citizens, are what are termed political Dissenters—as pious as any of their ecclesiastical enemies, and as good as any bishop on the bench. Looking back upon the history of this country since the Reformation, we cannot fail to perceive that, while the Church of England has hindered and opposed many public reforms, the Dissenters have always been the friends of civil and religious liberty, and have always supported those measures which were for the liberties and progress of the people. We owe much more to the political Dissenters for our liberties than we ever did or ever shall owe to the Church of England. The Five Miles Act, the Test and Corporation Acts, the Abolition of Church Rates, the opening of the Universities, are all mainly owing to the political Dissenters, and they, more than any others, have brought about the advanced stage of the burials question; and if Wesleyans are ever allowed to bury their own dead in their own way in the national churchyards, they will have to thank, in great measure, the political Dissenters. If the advocates of the Establishment wish to get rid of the political question they can

easily do so by taking their Church out of the domain of politics, for so long as it remains an Act of Parliament Church, and is governed by Parliament, so long will it be a great political question; and so long as it is a political question it must be dealt with on political grounds. The political Dissenter is for the most part a good citizen, a good Christian, a faithful member of his own church, and a truly religious man; and for the sincerity of his convictions, his hatred of ecclesiastical tyranny, his faithful services to religious liberty, his opposition to Popery in the Church of England, and his resistance to its persecutions in the rural districts, he deserves the respect of all honest men. Can we be surprised at the growing earnestness and activity of the political Dissenter? He has been subjected to suffering and wrong for generations, and he may well increase in courage and activity now that he believes the end for which he has laboured to be near."

The Crown has presented the Rev. Dr. Malcolm C. Taylor, of Morningside, to the vacant chair of Church History in the University of Edinburgh. Dr. Taylor was formerly minister of Crathie.

SECESSION TO THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—The Rev. James Anderson, late minister of the Presbyterian Church in High-street, Whitehaven, has gone over to the Church of England. Mr. Anderson and some of his congregation took opposite views on the School Board question, and this and other causes led to Mr. Anderson's dissolving his connection with the Presbyterians. On Sunday evening he preached for the first time in an English church, having been appointed curate of Holy Trinity Church, Whitehaven. Several of Mr. Anderson's Presbyterian friends have changed with him.

HYMNS IN WORKHOUSES.—At the last meeting of the St. George's, Hanover-square, Board of Guardians, Mr. Fleming called upon the Little Chelsea Workhouse visiting committee to explain why copies of "Hymns Ancient and Modern" had been ordered in substitution for those previously in use in the house. Colonel Haygarth observed that these hymn books were in use throughout the army. He declined to express any opinion as to these books, which were obtained as recommended by the chaplain. Mr. Z. D. Berry objected to these books, as he considered their introduction that of the thin edge of the wedge. Sir Rutherford Alcock pointed out that while more hymn-books were required those obtained were different from the rest. Ultimately the guardians were understood to decide that the original books should be substituted for "Hymns Ancient and Modern."

ROMAN CATHOLIC STATISTICS.—From the new issue of the "Catholic Directory" for 1877, we learn some interesting statistics concerning the Roman Catholic Church in this country. The clergy under Cardinal Manning's archiepiscopal control are now 1,828, serving 1,076 different public churches, chapels, and missionary stations, showing an increase during the past ten years (since 1867) of 413 under the former head, and 62 under the latter. There are now 18 archbishops and bishops in England and Wales, against 16 at the former date—namely, a cardinal archbishop and 12 suffragan bishops, two auxiliary or coadjutor bishops, and one archbishop and two bishops who are retired. In Scotland, during the same period of ten years, the churches and chapels have increased from 193 to 239, and the priests from 193 to 260. In the archdiocese of Westminster the religious communities of men are 17, just the same as they were in 1867; but during the same period the convents of women have increased from 27 to 40, almost all of whom are engaged either in teaching the poor schools, or in nursing the sick, or in reformatory work. The Roman Catholic peers, including Irish peers and peeresses in their own right, are 36, and in two cases the heirs to their titles are in holy orders. The Roman Catholic baronets are 48, and there are seven Catholic members of Her Majesty's Privy Council. The Roman Catholic members of the House of Commons number 50, all of whom sit for Irish constituencies. Passing to the general summary, which gives a brief account of the Roman Catholic Church in foreign countries, we find that the Sacred College of Cardinals consists at present of 57 members, its full complement being 70—namely, 6 cardinal bishops, 44 cardinal priests, and 7 cardinal deacons. At the head of the cardinal bishops stands the name of Constantine Patrizzi (who has died, however, since the sheets were printed off); the senior cardinal bishop, therefore, now is Louis Filippo Sorsio, Bishop of Porto and Santa Rufina, sub-dean of the Sacred College, and vice-chancellor of the Holy Roman Church, who was created and proclaimed in 1837. The senior cardinal priest is Philip de Angelis, Archbishop of Fermo, and "First Priest and Camerlengo of the Holy Roman Church." He was born in 1792, was created in 1839, and proclaimed in the following year. As to the Roman Catholic Episcopate, the "Directory" states that there are seven "Patriarchs" of the "Latin Rite" and five of the "Oriental Rite," and that the total of archiepiscopal and episcopal sees, subject to the Papal Chair, amounts to 882. The total of Roman Catholic Bishops and Archbishops, including those "in partibus infidelium" and Vicars Apostolic, appears from the same source of information to be 1,142.

DISSIDENT A CAUSE OF POTATO ROT.—The Rev. J. Booth, of March Gibbon, Bicester, sends to the *Bradford Observer* the following, extracted from documents posted in the porch of Ludgershall Church, Bucks, the authenticity of which he vouches for:—"Notice.—Leviticus, xxvi. 26, 28:—'And

if ye will not for all this hearken unto me, but walk contrary unto me; then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I will chastise you seven times for your sins.' Haggai i. 9: 'Ye looked for much, and lo, it came to little; and when ye brought home, I did blow upon it. Why? said the Lord of Hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.' You may look on the potato rot as a just judgment for your unthankful hatred of the Church, without which you would be nothing. There is no luck to such as have evil will at Zion. Consistent Dissent is to be respected. Those who believe that the Baptist, or the Wesleyan, or the Independent religion is the best, perhaps do right to follow their persuasion, but no respect whatever is due to the mere pig-headed Radical, who cares for none of these opinions, but only dissents to show his hatred of the Established Church. What need is there of jealousy? Our Church is no more established than the Wesleyans are. We get no advantage from the Government. The law does us no good, but the contrary. They have left us only the mockery of an Establishment without the reality. This we care nothing about, only we protest against the meanness of coming a-begging to us and then lifting up your head against us. Thousands of the working classes in London and other great towns have joined together in a union for protecting the High Church and Ritualistic clergy against their enemies, so that your chance is small of bettering yourselves by pulling down the Church. You are outvoted by your own class. Dissent and Methodism have seen their best days. Your love of Dissent is only the liking for the sociability of the ale bench—hail fellows, well met, all brothers together. The public-house may as well be opened during Divine service as the reading school if it takes people away from church. Dissenting baptism, whether valid or not, is no admission into our Church; and there is no good reason why I should be required by law to acknowledge it. In future, if a child die unbaptized, or has had only Dissenting baptism, a short service will be read over the grave, but the bell will not be tolled nor the corpse met at the gate. This will prevent the necessity of mocking the Church by bringing children to be christened merely for the sake of burial, and then bringing them up as Dissenters. It is proposed to establish a christening club. Five shillings to be deposited in the child's behalf, money to be returned with interest at confirmation or in case the child dies.—T. M." The rector of Ludgershall is the Rev. Thomas Martyn, M.A.

Religious and Denominational News.

Some of the New York Churches now pay their pastors weekly.

Mr. Christopher A. Lyon, of New College, London, has accepted a call to the pastorate of the Albert-street Congregational Church, Rugby, and is expected to begin his ministry there on the first Sunday of the new year.

The Rev. Alex. Mackinnon, B.A., of Leicester, has accepted a hearty and unanimous invitation to become the pastor of the Congregational Church, at Bowdon. Mr. Mackinnon will commence his ministry at Bowdon on the first Sunday in February.

WORCESTER.—Recognition services have been held in connection with the settlement of the Rev. James Lewitt, late of Scarborough, at Sansome Walk, Worcester. Sermons were preached by Dr. Green, late of Rawdon College, and crowded gatherings, over which the Mayor of Worcester presided, were held on Monday. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. Dr. Angus, Dr. Green, Dr. Todd, Dr. Pryce, and W. P. Rosevear.

THE BAPTISTS OF SCOTLAND.—The total indebtedness of all the Baptist Churches in Scotland for new buildings, alterations, and extensions amounts to about 7,000*l*. The last two years have been characterised by extraordinary activity in this respect, the ascertained expenditure within that period amounting to 40,000*l*. This is to a great extent attributed to the result of the revivals which have taken place. A loan fund is in course of formation by the Scottish Baptist Union to relieve the churches of the capital payments, and for still further extending denominational work.

LONDON CONGREGATIONAL UNION.—A conference of the ministers and deacons of the Congregational Churches of London was held on Tuesday evening at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, under the presidency of Mr. James Spicer. Mr. Albert Spicer gave a statement of the work accomplished by the Union since its formation, about four years ago, from which it appeared that weak and struggling churches had been assisted, that the Gospel had been introduced into new and populous localities, and that sites had been bought for new chapels in suitable districts; that district committees had been established in the various quarters of London, and that they had organised local conferences and meetings, and thus brought together the hitherto isolated churches of the Congregational body for conference and mutual help. An effort was to be made to raise at least 10,000*l*. a year to carry on their work. The secretary, the Rev. Andrew Mearns, gave some statistics regarding the state of Congregationalism in the metropolis, from which it appeared that there were 160 churches affiliated to the Union, sending 900 delegates to the meetings. The chapels within the twelve miles radius had sitting accommodation for 168,546

persons. The cost of the buildings amounted to 1,120,597*l*., and there had been spent upon them since their erection 249,700*l*., leaving debts still to be paid, 78,548*l*.; of this sum it was estimated that 40,000*l*. was owing by well-to-do churches, and was therefore not burdensome, but the balance of 38,548*l*. was owing by weak and struggling churches, which it was desirable that the Union should help. Several ministers and deacons then addressed the conference.

Correspondence.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—It is somewhat saddening to reflect on the comparatively small number of those who will have these words on their lips on Jan. 1, who will experience the coveted blessing. A thousand perverse circumstances and personal idiosyncrasies conspire to frustrate the beneficent purposes of Heaven. There would almost appear to be a suicidal determination on the part of multitudes to do all in their power to shatter to pieces every possible foundation of a happy life in their natures. Vile habits are nursed as if they were the very hope of humanity. No one seems to bestow a thought upon the deadly harvest of which they are the seeds. Of the multitudes who throng our streets how few there are who show by their deportment that they have before them, as the goal of their existence, "Glory, honour, and immortality." All manner of vulgar tastes dominate them. The obscene remark, the bestial action, the evil look, the low and debasing companionship—these are the prevailing characteristics. Listen to the talk of the first half-dozen youths you see going along the streets—watch their manner, and then think for a moment of the Apostolic injunction, "Whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are honest," &c.

I am persuaded that the pipe and the pot have much to do with this widespread demoralisation. The conscience of the Christian Church is not half alive to the inconceivable abominations of our public-house life. Having to pass and repass some half-dozen times a day upwards of a dozen of these moral charnel-houses, I can testify to their hateful tendency. I dare affirm that the best-conducted of these strong-drink shops is little more than a hot-bed of vice. The youth who are drawn into them are within the circling eddies of a moral whirlpool. All ideas of reforming the wretched haunts are more hopeless than projects for reforming the Turks.

The questions then recur to the thoughtful mind—What can be done in the sad business? How are these ruin-tending multitudes to be reached? What redemption in Christianity is there for them? Alas! here we are most confounded. A thousand ameliorating agencies are all around, but they do not ameliorate. Christian sanctuaries and Christian ministers are multiplied on every hand, but still the moral plague goes on and increases. Only those who least need saving are found at the Bethesda porches. Chapels and churches are filled with those who, comparatively speaking, "need no repentance." A few out of the moral wastes of humanity are lured by pious bribes to an occasional visit to some place of worship. Too often, however, these church or chapel mice reveal only a more hateful corruption. A fawning sycophancy takes the place of the old devil-may-care spirit, and you gradually become conscious that they are

The worse for mending, washed to fouler stains. What then can be done in these truly appalling circumstances? Plainly this. More spiritual force must be acquired by the would-be exorcists. The Church is in the position of the discomfited disciples of old. But how is this increased force to be acquired? I answer, By prayer and fasting. The moral impotency of modern Christianity is a consequence of its luxury and wealth. "See," said an ecclesiastic, holding out a bowl of money before Thomas Aquinas, "the Church has no longer to say, 'Silver and gold have I none.'" "True," replied the stern ascetic, "and no longer is she able to say to the lame man, 'Stand up and walk.'" Here is the key to the profound mystery. The disciples of the healing Nazarene have lost their healing powers. Christianity stands forth before a scoffing world as a stupendous failure. Its priests have every adornment but the one which can alone bring true renown. They are cultured, eloquent, learned and polite, but they cannot cast out devils. Wealthy disciples give their gold for the building of costly temples, and their praises are chanted from John-o'-Groat's to Land's End, but Heaven knows there is little real gain to humanity in the costly folly. Luxury only becomes more luxurious, and nine

times out of ten the fine Gothic building becomes only a moral mausoleum. What is needed on the part of these rich men is that they should exchange the fulsome nonsense with which their ears are being perpetually regaled by their clerical hangers-on, for the stern truths which a Joseph Arch could tell them. Out of whose sweat and blood did they get their hoards of wealth? How about the cries from the hard-pressed toilers, which have gone up into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth? I am sure if this dreadful question of the hopeless alienation of our working classes from religion is to be probed to its bottom, it must be dealt with in this way. The anomalies and inconsistencies of Christendom are enough to undermine the very throne of Deity. What with a Manning publishing his unutterable nonsense about indulgences, and a Tait balancing himself on the tight rope of expediency, the time seems come when, if it were possible, the faith of the very elect must yield. No wonder, then, at a scoffing world outside! God send us with the New Year new power to subjugate the demon Self! When, like the Master, we have learnt the sublime lesson how not to please ourselves, we shall once more repeat the spiritual victories of the past. Instead of grinning at us as they now do, the devils shall be subject unto us as of old, and we shall come to realise in all its wealth of meaning what is involved in the wish, "A Happy New Year."

Yours, &c.,
A. C.

INSURANCE OF PASTORS' LIVES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—The town of Ipswich, in which I reside, has recently lost one of its Nonconforming ministers, who has left a widow and several young children, I believe almost, if not quite, unprovided for, and this sad loss has set me thinking as to the reason why ministers do not, as a rule, make better provision for old age, and for those they leave behind when called from their earthly duties. I come to the conclusion that there are several reasons, viz.—their salaries are not often so high as they should be, they are not men of business, they find it incumbent on them to make and keep up a respectable appearance on oftentimes a very limited income, and, lastly, their thoughts are naturally more bent on spiritual things, and they practise, even as they preach, a heavenly faith which leads them to take no thought of the morrow.

These being some of the reasons why, the next thing to consider is the remedy, and I would suggest one of two courses.

The first course would be for each congregation to insure its pastor's life for a given sum, say 500*l.* as an average, and that the annual premiums should form a portion of, or an addition to, his salary, and that the policy should go with him from congregation to congregation as he changed from time to time his sphere of occupation.

The second course would be to form a society which would so arrange as to receive from each congregation, willing to join, an annual subscription, and for this to guarantee a certain sum as a pension in old age, and a fixed sum at death whenever either the one or the other should overtake their minister. I think the amount of the annual subscriptions should be in proportion to the sum to be paid at death and the amount of the pension guaranteed, and that the age of the minister should not be taken into account, because the amount of the annual subscription would be in accordance with safety and security, and would be fixed after statistics had been obtained as to the average age of the various ministers throughout the country.

I prefer the latter course, because it would place every congregation on an equal footing at once, and would, while being self-supporting, be of a mutual character, and tend to bring congregations more into harmony, regardless of sect. At the present time it frequently occurs that in case of death a subscription is raised among the members of the congregation, and this sometimes reaches a respectable sum; but it is not often done without effort, and the principal weight of the burden falls on a few shoulders. Again, when a minister becomes aged, and his work is ended, he becomes a pensioner on the bounty of the congregation, which finds it hard sometimes to support two ministers; whereas, if my second plan be carried into effect, the retiring minister receives his pension from the society as a matter of right, and the congregation is entirely relieved from further responsibility so far as he is concerned, and continues its subscription in favour

of the new minister, who will, in all probability, be a much younger man, so that it will rarely happen that the same congregation will require further assistance from the society for years to come, and so losses are fairly and equally borne by the whole body of Nonconformists, and do not fall heavily on a portion. Of course the whole gist of the matter is contained in the fact that there is a certain number of ministers in the country, and that a certain average proportion of this number will die or become incapable during any given year; therefore let the loss be borne by the whole each year, so that no one is heavily tried.

I should like expressions of opinion either privately or in your valuable columns, and if I can be of service in promoting some such society as is here shadowed forth, I will do my very utmost.

Yours obediently,

GEO. WRIGHT, Accountant.

Clarence House, Ipswich, Dec. 15, 1876.

[Our correspondent does not seem to be aware that there is in existence a Congregational Ministers' Pastors' Insurance Aid Society (Memorial Hall), the object of which is "to assist accredited pastors of the Independent denomination in effecting an insurance for the benefit of their widows and children, by aiding them to pay the annual premiums requisite for that purpose." The insurances are made with the Protestant Union. Some fifty-five ministers were assisted to insure their lives during the past year. We believe a similar society exists among the Baptists.—*Ed. Noncon.*]

S. JAMES'S, HATCHAM.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—It is stated in the *Times* of the 25th inst., that the Bishop of Rochester, acting in accordance with the requirements of the Public Worship Regulation Act, "proceeded to revoke the licence of the Rev. W. H. Browne, the assistant curate, and to appoint as curate in charge the Rev. Canon Gee, D.D., a rural dean, and one of the proctors in Convocation for the clergy of the diocese, and one of his lordship's chaplains." May I ask through your columns, whether the rev. canon, in addition to these offices, also holds the benefice of Abbots Langley, Herts (population 2,000)?—if so, whether his appointment to St. James's, Hatcham, (population 9,000) is consistent with the spirit of the Pluralities Acts (1 and 2 Vict. ch. 106, and 13 and 14 Vict. ch. 98)? By the first section of the later Act it is enacted that no two benefices shall be held together if the distance between them exceeds three miles by the nearest road. By the fourth section of the former Act it is also enacted that if the population of one parish exceeds 3,000 that of the other must not exceed 500. Again, is it consistent with the form of nomination to a curacy? The nominator (ordinarily the incumbent, but in this case I suppose the bishop himself) is required to make this statement:—"I, G. H. . . . and I do hereby state to your lordship that the said E. F., the proposed curate, intends to reside in the said parish. . . . and that the said E. F. does not serve any other parish as incumbent or curate, and that he has not any cathedral preferment or benefice, and does not officiate in any other church or chapel." Further, is it consistent with the injunction in the usual form of licence, "And you are to reside in the parish"? H. W. HILL.

Peckham, S.E., Dec. 26.

A general index has been issued to the back volumes of the *Leisure Hour*, on the completion of its twenty-fifth year. It includes nearly 15,000 references.

The exhibition of works of old masters and deceased British artists will be opened next Monday. The private view takes place on Saturday. The exhibition is said to be a very fine one.

Mr. Henry Richard, M.P., has republished his pamphlet of 1855, "History of the Origin of the War with Russia," and in an introduction says, referring to the time when it appeared and comparing it with the present:—

I may now perhaps be permitted, without offence, to say that the air was at that time hot with prejudice and passion, and I thought it might be useful to enable such of my countrymen as were disposed to do so to compare the simple facts of the case with the wild exaggerations which were employed to influence the popular imagination. There are not wanting indications that attempts are being made, or may be made, in some quarters to reproduce the same state of feeling towards Russia which hurried this country into that disastrous conflict. I am anxious, therefore, that an opportunity should be afforded the young generation that has come into political life since those days to judge for themselves what really was the nature and amount of those Russian demands in 1853-4, which were swollen to such portentous dimensions by the jealousies and fears of the moment.

SCHOOL BOARD NEWS.

THE LATE ELECTION FOR LAMBETH.

On Thursday evening a number of the supporters of Messrs. Stiff, Murphy, and Kemp-Welch, the unsectarian candidates at the recent School Board election for the Lambeth Division, gave a complimentary dinner to those gentlemen at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, in celebration of their return. About 120 gentlemen were present, and a few ladies. The Rev. J. G. ROGERS, the chairman of the executive committee, occupied the chair, and among those present, besides the three members named, were Sir John Bennett, Mr. Mundella, M.P., the Rev. Joseph Shaw, the Rev. J. P. Turquand, Mr. James Clarke, Dr. Bennett, Mr. C. P. Leckie, Mr. G. C. Whiteley, the Rev. E. Vaughan, and Mr. J. E. Tresidder; and letters were read from the Rev. Dr. Angus, Alderman M'Arthur, M.P., Alderman Sir J. C. Lawrence, M.P., Sir C. Reed, Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., the Rev. John Rodgers, Professor Fawcett, M.P., Mr. Robert Lowe, M.P., Sir John Lubbock, M.P., Sir Sydney Waterlow, M.P., Mr. E. N. Buxton, and the Rev. J. Baldwin Brown, who were unable to be present, but who expressed their sympathy with the object of the gathering. After dinner, the usual loyal toasts were given, and

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing the Houses of Parliament, expressed the hope that at no distant date greater harmony would prevail between the House of Commons and the opinions of the people on educational questions; the late election in London showing that the people of the country were in favour of educational progress, while Parliament, at least its majority, had shown itself inclined to retrogression.

Mr. MUNDELLA, M.P., in acknowledging the toast, said their chairman had told them that he was not altogether satisfied with the present House of Commons. Neither was he. But there was an old story of an American politician who, haranguing his constituents, concluded his address with the words, "These are my principles, and if you do not like them, gentlemen, they can be changed." (Laughter.) The same might be said of the House of Commons. The House of Commons would be what the constituencies made it, and if they did not like it they could change it. Educationalists had had to fight the battle under great difficulties last session. For his own part, he never passed through so grievous a session, one in which he felt they were doing so much mischief and taking such retrogressive steps. Their great victory in London had more than consoled him for the doings of last session. He felt that what London had done the country would try to do. The victory won in London had rejoiced the friends of education throughout the length and breadth of the land. When he looked back ten years he was much consoled by the progress that had been made in education during that time. It was almost exactly ten years ago since he went to an educational conference in Manchester, presided over by Mr. Forster and the present Lord Aberdare alternately, and he moved a resolution that compulsion should be the basis of the national system. The whole Press of the country ridiculed that proposition, but he carried it in the conference, and he had lived to see the day when everybody was in favour of it. The London School Board in six years had set an excellent example of what could be done, but he must say—and he was now speaking, not to parsimonious ratepayers, but to a number of enlightened educationalists—and he must say that during the election he was ashamed to hear even the Liberal candidates at some of the meetings apologise for the expenditure. He was ashamed to hear the cry of economy and the objection to some twenty or thirty pupil teachers learning a little Latin. He maintained that what they had to do was to do their work well. The school life of every child in this country was a short one. On account of the parental necessities it was a hard struggle to get the children to school and to keep them there, and there could be no worse economy than to teach the children badly. The pupil-teacher system was utterly worthless. To set half-educated children to teach uneducated children was the greatest mistake in the world. We were paying much more for our poor-rate and for the support of prisoners than for education. In other countries it was just the reverse. They paid for education and saved the poverty and the crime. The only way by which we could maintain our manufacturing and commercial supremacy was by education. He hoped that those who took an interest in education would not be content with what they were doing in the metropolis or in the large towns. According to the census there are now 400,000 fewer people employed in agriculture than there was in the preceding decade, and looking to the fact that the population was increasing fast, they would see that it was necessary that the education now given in the metropolis should be extended to the remotest villages, and not only in England and Scotland, but in Ireland. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN then gave "The three Liberal and undenominational members of the School Board for the Lambeth district." It was a great pleasure and pride to be able to give that toast that night. Three months ago there were very few who expected they would have been there to witness such a glorious result that day, and he must say he did not expect such a crushing defeat would have been inflicted on the clerical party. Never was a battle fought on the opposite side on more dishonourable grounds, and on more false pretences. He hoped that by the present Board there would

not be quite the same feeling towards the so-called voluntary schools that there was in the last. He wished no harm to efficient voluntary schools, but, on the other hand, they would be doing evil to the work of education if they abstained from planting schools where schools were needed simply because some inefficient voluntary school might happen to be in the district already. In Lambeth, so far as he was aware, their candidates never apologised for the expenditure of the Board, but they endorsed the policy of the Board, and he hoped the new Board would understand that the strong verdict, not of Lambeth merely, but of all London, was that they would have efficient schools, no matter what the cost might be. (Cheers.) Mr. Stiff, one of their members, had served them for six years, Mr. Murphy for three, and he would undertake that Mr. Kemp-Welch would serve them for the next three years as faithfully as his colleagues. (Cheers.)

Mr. STIFF, in returning thanks, said it would not do for the Board to enter into any lavish expenditure, but they all felt that there was work to do, and that it must be done in a workmanlike manner. The vote of London was that the work must go on until all the children in the metropolis had a school-place, and every child was in its place. The Chairman and Mr. Mundella had condemned the system of pupil-teachers, but where were they to get teachers if they had not pupil-teachers? The fact was, the pupil teachers who had been trained in college for two years afterwards made the most successful teachers that they had in connection with their Board schools.

Mr. MURPHY said a large amount of work had been accomplished, but a great deal yet remained to be done by the Board before education in London was in the state in which it ought to be. At Haverstock-hill and at another school in the east of London they were trying the German system, but at present that and their own system seemed to be running on parallel lines.

Mr. KEMP-WELCH also returned thanks on his own behalf. He said he thought the pupil-teacher system of doubtful expediency, and that was one of the matters that would require great attention in the next three years.

The CHAIRMAN said before he called on Mr. Pocock to propose the next toast, he wished to state that that gentleman, who was the fourth candidate on their side, withdrew before the election rather than endanger the return of their other candidates.

Mr. POCOCK (the gentleman referred to) then proposed the "Successful undenominational candidates at the recent School Board election."

Sir JOHN BENNETT, as the member who headed the poll in the City of London, rose, amid loud cheers, to reply. He said that the victory which had been achieved in London was a great one, and was so regarded by the country. Its effects would be of immense consequences to the country. The *Times* had pointed out the fact that out of the picked boys in voluntary schools examined for scholarships, some showed a lamentable lack of even the most elementary knowledge, showing what education had been hitherto in London schools, and the present Board must set itself to work to make education thorough and effective, to give good teachers, and to have a sufficient number of them. London had its 600,000 children to educate, to train, to discipline, and to make good men and women, and the London Board must not shrink from its duty. Cobden had told him that a popularly-elected Parliament only would pass a system of popular education, and events had proved the truth of his words; and the popular voice had stamped the action of the London School Board with approval, showing that the people themselves desired to see their children educated. Prince Albert said that the rise of the English commercial greatness dated from the overthrow of a dominant priesthood, and in like manner the rise of education would take its rise from the overthrow of the priesthood which lately endeavoured to be dominant. The speaker urged that all differences should be forgotten, that as the Board had doubled the attendance at school, and had educated the parents to see the need of education, the members must now, with the help of God, set themselves to thoroughly educate the children. Other toasts followed, and the party separated at a late hour.

THE NEW EDUCATION ACT AND THE CHILDREN OF INDIGENT PARENTS.

A special meeting of the Sheffield School Board was held on Thursday, for the purpose of taking into consideration the 10th clause of the new Education Act. This clause stands in the place of the 25th clause of the old Act, and its object is to do away with one portion of the religious difficulty. Under the latter clause school boards had the power of remitting or paying the fees of indigent children whose parents desired that they should attend denominational schools. The 10th clause of the new Act requires that this shall in future be done by the Poor Law guardians, and the guardians are made responsible for ascertaining the circumstances of the parents. A portion of the members of the Sheffield School Board are very much opposed to this clause, inasmuch as they contend that if parents have to go to the workhouse for the payment of the school fee of their children, it will ultimately tend to pauperise them; and, if so worked, the clause will result in wholesale pauperism. Interviews had taken place between a deputation of the board and the guardians, but inasmuch as the board had not settled its own policy, the interviews resulted in nothing beyond

an expression of opinion that the guardians were willing to work with the board. The meeting of the board on Thursday was to settle the course which ought to be pursued. After a discussion, which lasted a considerable time, by a majority of ten to three it was decided that the board should, as heretofore, receive and investigate all applications for the payment of fees on account of poverty; that lists of those recommended for payment be forwarded to the guardians for approval; and that the General Purposes Committee be empowered to make all needful arrangements for a system of joint action between the board and the guardians. The amendment was that the board should investigate the applications, but that it should not suggest any names, and that the applicants should meet the guardians at some building other than the workhouse.

The *Leeds Mercury* of Saturday has the following on the same subject:—"The result of the conference between the representatives of the Leeds School Board and the representatives of the boards of guardians of the several unions within the school-board district was so far satisfactory, that the latter concurred in the suggestion that practically matters should remain as they are. The subject upon which the members of the respective bodies met to confer may be explained in a few words. By the Education Act of last session the payment of remitted school fees in the case of poor parents is practically transferred from the school board to the board of guardians, such payments not to exceed threepence per week per child. It was suggested on behalf of the School Board that as it has already, and must continue to maintain, a staff of officials whose duty it is to enforce the attendance of children at school, it was not necessary, and is not desirable, that the guardians should appoint another staff to do substantially the same work. The remitted fees, however, must be paid by the guardians, and it was proposed at the conference on Thursday that the school board, by its officers and committees, should make the necessary inquiries in all cases where a remission of fees by non-paupers was asked for, and should report the result to the guardians. There would be no violation of the Act in adopting such a course, and it would avoid the necessity of the parents going before the guardians. The gentlemen who represented the guardians at the conference expressed their approval of the proposal, and in due time the question will come before the Guardians of the different unions for their decision. We trust that the new Act will be brought into operation in Leeds, at least, without further burdening the rates, and without inaugurating a new School Attendance Committee, with independent authority. The school board is likely to deal as liberally with poor parents as the guardians, and it is desirable to avoid mixing up the remission of school fees with the administration of the Poor Law as much as possible.

LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.—At the meeting of the Board on Wednesday, Dec. 20, it was announced that Mr. J. Watson, the Rev. J. Rodgers, and Mr. Freeman had been re-elected chairmen of the Statistical, the School Management, and the Finance Committees respectively; that Mr. J. Stiff had been elected chairman of the Works Committee; and Mr. T. Scrutton chairman of the Industrial Schools Committee. It was resolved, on the motion of the Rev. J. Rodgers, to try as an experiment, for six months, in some particular groups of schools, to recover arrears of fees through the county court, instead of excluding children from the schools. The board, on rising, adjourned to the 10th of January.

LEICESTER SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.—In this town an agreement has been arrived at to avoid a contest. There will be five Undenominational candidates, two working men, four Denominational candidates, and a Roman Catholic.

HALIFAX SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.—Saturday was the last day for receiving nominations, and fourteen candidates were nominated for eleven seats. Mr. J. H. Swallow, the present chairman of the board, was nominated by both parties as an independent candidate. The two parties had arranged that a contest should be avoided by five being elected for each party, with Mr. Swallow to make up the full board. The attitude of the Working Men's Association has disturbed this arrangement to some extent. However, on Saturday night the unsectarian party withdrew Councillor Oakes, and the sectarian party Mr. J. W. Broadbent, and steps were taken to form a joint committee, with the view of supporting the eleven gentlemen remaining, thus throwing the onus of the contest on Mr. Todd and his friends. There is a strong feeling in the town against the course taken by the Working Men's Association, who were defeated at their own public meeting, and a resolution passed by a large majority in favour of the unsectarian six. It is hoped that a contest may yet be avoided by the withdrawal of Mr. Todd.

DEWSBURY SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.—The nominations for this election were completed on Saturday evening. Nine members are required, and the unsectarian party have nominated five. The Roman Catholic candidate is Father Kenny. The election will take place on January 6th.

DARLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.—The efforts made to avoid a contest are not likely to be very successful, as, instead of the nine names agreed upon by the respective parties, nineteen have been nominated. Some of these candidates have, however, announced that they will not stand. The election takes place on the 6th January.

DUDLEY SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.—On Friday,

the Mayor had received twenty nominations for the eleven vacancies on this board. There are eight Churchmen, eleven Nonconformists, and one Roman Catholic. The Church party has nominated five candidates, and asks for votes for them only; and the Nonconformists have selected six. The Roman Catholic can only get a seat by his party "plumping" for him and the assistance of some of the Church party. There is every likelihood of a bitter contest.

BURNLEY SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.—The school board nominations were to close on Tuesday. There are nine members to be elected, and twenty-three are nominated, including one working-man candidate. The Mayor has called a friendly meeting of candidates for this evening, to see if a contest can be avoided.

OLDHAM SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.—The election of a school board took place at Oldham on Saturday. There were originally nineteen candidates, but a compromise was effected by which there were a sufficient number of withdrawals to prevent a contest. The old board was composed of six Churchmen, six Nonconformists, and one Roman Catholic, and the denominations will be similarly represented on the new board.

The Wells Board of Guardians have decided to take no steps for the carrying out of Lord Sandon's Act until the Local Government Board call upon them to appoint a School Attendance Committee. The Act of Parliament would appear to contemplate the spontaneous action of the guardians in the matter.

The school boards of Cumberland have under consideration a courteous letter from the Bishop of Carlisle offering to provide clerical inspection of the undenominational religious instruction in the board schools of his lordship's diocese. Members of the Carlisle Board have expressed an opinion that it would be undesirable to allow the religious instruction in their schools to be thus associated with the work of the Established Church, but the matter is under consideration. There are a large number of school boards in small districts in the bishop's diocese, and we shall no doubt hear that many of them have accepted the bishop's offer.—*School Board Chronicle*.

MR. FORSTER AND THE ACT OF 1876.—Mr. Forster has surprised some friends of national education by the amiability of his remarks at Halifax touching the Act of last session. By those who have been hoping to see a national system in operation, it is felt that, saying nothing for the reactionary provisions of the new measure, not all the good points in it can compensate for the fact that the Act is a huge and costly obstruction in the way of the universal establishment of the school board system. There is really no excuse for all these ingenious contrivances of attendance committees, acts of guardians, acts of town councils, acts of urban sanitary authorities: except that they are so much gratuitous opprobrium thrown upon the school board system. The friends of voluntary schools, in the two years from the last general Parliamentary election until the bringing in of this Bill, had raised such an outcry of prejudice against school boards that it seemed incumbent upon the Government, representing that interest, to make further provision for education without extending the school board system, and Lord Sandon's fantastic contrivance of attendance committees is the result; but at length there is a turn of public opinion, and the prejudice that was so industriously raised against the school board system is found to be rapidly disappearing, and such friends of a real and simple system of national education as Mr. Forster are not expected to accept this patchwork arrangement as a final one.—*School Board Chronicle*.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

MEETING OF THE FULL CONFERENCE.

The first full sitting of the Conference at Constantinople took place on Saturday under Safvet Pasha's presidency. Safvet Pasha, in opening the proceedings, spoke of the liberal views of the Sublime Porte, which, he said, was ready to grant its subjects all privileges that were not contrary to the dignity and integrity of the empire. The Conference first proceeded to verify the full powers of the Plenipotentiaries. A short time after the opening of the proceedings salutes of artillery were heard, and Safvet Pasha explained that the salutes announced the promulgation of the Constitution, which would effect a complete change in the state of Turkey. It is stated that during the proceedings Safvet Pasha read a long historical memoir in which it was attempted to be shown that the so-called atrocities in Bulgaria had in truth been but insignificant; but he was soon interrupted by Lord Salisbury, who advised him to reserve his remarks on the subject, and further expressed his opinion that such matters had better not be referred to at all. The English Plenipotentiary's view was supported by General Ignatieff.

The next sitting of the Conference will be held this day, at which, it was expected, the question of the prolongation of the armistice would be discussed. It is thought probable that the extension of fifteen days will be proposed.

THE DEMANDS OF THE SIX POWERS.

The correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, writing from Constantinople, on Thursday, states that he is enabled to communicate the nature of the demands which the representatives of the Great Powers will make in the Conference. "They include the almost unmodified proposals of Russia for reform and religious and political equality in Bulgaria, Bosnia, and the Herzegovina, and provide not only for the rearrangement of the taxes, but also for the right of Christians to serve in the Ottoman armies. Sweeping although they are, it has been generally agreed that they are needful; and, indeed, I have as yet no reason to suppose that the Turks are averse from granting most of the concessions required. A very important rearrangement of territory has besides been proposed—namely, the division of Bulgaria into two provinces, separated from each other by a line which would run almost due north and south between Sophia and Philippopolis. The districts thus administered would, I believe, extend some considerable distance into Roumelia, covering, in fact, most, if not all, of the Christian villages west of Adrianople. By this the vilayets of Sophia and Adrianople would be broken up. The former would become a Christian province, with a Christian governor, in place of the very able Pasha who for some months past has been endeavouring to reform his district; while the latter would cede the greater portion of its extent to the other new province, of which Philippopolis is to be the capital. With regard to the proposed guarantees, I understand that the number of Belgian or Dutch troops estimated as necessary for the preservation of order and the working out of the reforms is 12,000; but I have not yet been able to learn where it is proposed to quarter them. The disarmament of Mussulmans will not be insisted upon, but arms must not in future be worn in the streets, and those Turks who during the late war received rifles and other weapons from the Government are to be required to surrender them at the official depots."

The correspondent of the *Daily News* gives fuller particulars of the proposals of the Great Powers. It is provided that the Governors-General may be foreigners, and that military service devolves only on men between twenty and forty, instead of upon the whole male population. All who serve in the militia are exempt from the military tax. The provision for the foreign gendarmerie is contained in the instructions to the International Commission, which has not yet been appointed, and not in the organic law for the government of the provinces. Besides the tax on spirits and the Customs, which, as I have said, remain to the Porte, there are the tobacco monopoly and the posts and telegraphs. The revenues received by the Porte must not, however, exceed thirty per cent. of the whole revenue of the province in any case. The full meaning of this provision can only be understood when it is remembered that the Porte hitherto has received sixty per cent. of the revenues. In the Philippopolis district last year they amounted to £800,000, of which the Porte retained all but £27,000, which was spent in the province. Against the new arrangement the Turks will make a strong fight. The people, however, have a right to expect that the taxes shall be spent in the country, instead of being squandered away at Constantinople. The addition to the territory of Montenegro nearly doubles its size. Bosnia and the Herzegovina are to be united into one province. The whole scheme must be in operation within three months from the signing of the protocol. The English Commissioner will probably be Mr. Baring. No better choice could be made.

THE ATTITUDE OF THE POWERS AND OF TURKEY.

The same correspondent telegraphs:—"With regard to the programme of the Powers the opinion of the best-informed persons is directly at variance. Some say that Turkey will, and others that she will not, accept it. The Turks threaten that they will consider any attempt to carry the project into execution as a declaration of war, but we may doubt their taking this extreme course. They have attempted to intimidate the Conference by threatening a Moslem rising and a general massacre of the Christians, stupidly unconscious that they themselves were thus offering very conclusive proof of the necessity of a foreign occupation. I do not believe that the Turks will positively reject the programme of the Conference. They will, I believe, accept it in principle, and then endeavour to introduce changes in the provisions, equivocal expressions, and clauses, which will render the whole scheme worthless. They are very clever at this sort of thing. If allowed to discuss and introduce changes in the details, they will succeed either in sowing discord and destroying the unanimity of the Powers, or in making the project practically ineffective. The only plan the Conference can take is to present the project, and give the Turks the option of acceptance or refusal, without allowing them to discuss it. They must be allowed to answer 'Yes' or 'No,' otherwise the discussion will continue all the winter, and the whole scheme fall to the ground."

A telegram from Constantinople states that should the Sultan refuse to accede to the proposals of the Powers, Lord Salisbury will, in accordance with his instructions, leave the city, and order the British fleet to quit Turkish waters. All the plenipotentiaries, it is furthermore stated, will act in the same manner as Lord Salisbury. The embassies will then be entrusted to *chargés d'affaires*. It was

reported in Constantinople on Tuesday that the Turkish Council of Ministers decided on Monday to reject the proposals of the Powers, and that in the event of war the Porte had resolved to arm its Armenian, Greek, and Bulgarian Christian subjects.

According to a telegram from Constantinople, the Sultan is anxious for peace. The expenses of the war are ruinous, and the calls for the army have told with terrible force upon the Moslem population, whole villages and even districts in Asia Minor being denuded of men.

Lord Derby, according to a telegram from Vienna, does not intend to support the proposition of General Ignatieff that all diplomatic intercourse should be broken off with the Porte if the latter does not comply with the proposals of the Powers. It is asserted in Constantinople that Turkey will oppose any foreign occupation of her provinces.

The correspondent of the *Daily News* at Constantinople says:—"The advent of Midhat Pasha has been interpreted by some people as a sign of peace; by others with equal confidence as a sign of war. For my own part I do not think it makes the slightest difference who is Grand Vizier. The final solution will be brought about by forces over which the Grand Vizier has no control."

A telegram to the Russian Agency, from St. Petersburg, says:—"The results of the preliminary sittings have been communicated to the Porte as being the firm and unanimous will of Europe. The reply has not yet been given. The Ottoman Ministers hesitate between the fear of thwarting the decision of the Powers and that of not having the necessary force to restrain the populace. The Softas, formerly hostile to the Constitution, are making demonstrations in favour of it and of war."

A telegram from Vienna, dated Tuesday night, says:—"The reply of the Porte will, it is expected, be an evasive one. If the objections urged by the Porte appear, however, to seriously threaten the proposals, General Ignatieff is instructed to leave Constantinople. A modification of the minor points, however, will not be refused by Russia."

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* says:—"It inspires some confidence that repeated *pour-parlers* have been held between the Plenipotentiaries and Savet and Midhat Pashas, and that these *pour-parlers* had taken a more official form just about the time when the programme was being settled, so that it is by no means impossible that the two additional sittings of the preliminary Conference may have become necessary to put the propositions into a form which might be considered acceptable to Turkey, so that no serious objection might be apprehended on her side at this first step."

THE NEW TURKISH CONSTITUTION.

The new Constitution devised by Midhat Pasha discussed by the Council, and accepted by the Sultan, was proclaimed with much solemnity on Saturday in the presence of the Ministers, the public functionaries, and a great concourse of people. It provides for the indivisibility of the empire in the first place, and in the next place affirms that the Sultan is the Caliph of Mussulmans and Sovereign of all the Ottomans. Islam is the religion of the State, but the Government is not to be a theocracy, and subjects of all religions and races are to have equal rights. There are to be two legislative houses—the Senate to be nominated by the Sultan, the Chamber of Deputies to be elected by ballot in the proportion of one member to every 100,000 inhabitants. The members of both houses are to be paid, and there is to be a dissolution every four years. Local government is provided for by a system of municipal councils.

There was a demonstration of the Softas on Saturday night in front of the Russian Embassy, and shouts were raised of "Long live the Sultan!" and "Down with Russia!"

PROPOSED BELGIAN OCCUPATION.

The *Indépendance Belge* of Tuesday says:—"With regard to the suggested occupation of Bulgaria, the Belgian Government up to the present has only received overtures of a purely confidential character, and the Belgian diplomatic agents abroad have likewise only been confidentially made acquainted with the project. The Minister, M. Malou, is said to have informed them that, without absolutely rejecting the request which may eventually be made, the Belgian Government is of opinion that Belgium would be obliged to subordinate her acceptance to the condition of her obtaining certain guarantees of a moral and financial nature." The *Indépendance Belge*, in discussing this matter, doubts whether Belgium's conditions would have any chance of being accepted by the Powers.

The Russian agency telegram says:—"The Belgian Government is favourable to the enrolment of a gendarmerie, but it is difficult to reconcile such a measure to the Belgian Constitution. The Antibes Papal Legion is, however, a precedent. The Cabinet are conferring in case of a refusal by the Porte."

According to a telegram from Constantinople, it has been agreed by the Plenipotentiaries that the cost of defraying the expenses of the Belgian troops who might be sent to occupy Bulgaria, should be borne by the revenues of that province, upon which, for a time, a certain fixed charge would be laid.

The employment of a portion of the Roumanian army for police purposes, rather than a Belgian force, is favoured in some quarters.

It is stated from Vienna that the project of the preliminary Conference left Turkey the alternative

either to engage from 3,000 to 6,000 foreign volunteers and to garrison certain places in Bulgaria, or to form an armed police of volunteers, foreigners and natives—the latter to be Christians and Mohammedans placed at the Sultan's disposal for the above purpose.

The *Politische Correspondenz* asserts that the Porte has decided to admit Bulgarians into the National Guard now in course of formation. Ten per thousand are to be incorporated. The number of Bulgarians aged from twenty-one to thirty-six being about 400,000, they consequently will furnish a contingent of 4,000 men. The Mussulmans will muster about 16,000; the proportion of Christians in the National Guard is, therefore, one to four.

In the Turkish capital it is reported that in consenting to present to the Porte the idea of a Belgian occupation, the British Government has been animated by a desire that its Ambassador should not adopt a course different from that of all the other ambassadors at the Conference; but it is also believed that the plan finds little favour with the English Cabinet, and that, in any shape, it will be met with unfaltering resistance by the Porte.

THE WARLIKE PREPARATIONS.

It is announced from St. Petersburg that the Grand Duke Nicholas, the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army of the South, was taken ill on the 19th inst., and that up to the 24th there had been no improvement in his condition.

The Russian commission appointed to examine into and test the condition of *matériel de guerre* is reported to have discovered that the powder supplied to the army of the South has suffered adulteration to such an extent as to be worthless. This revelation has caused a profound sensation in the highest political and military circles of St. Petersburg, where every effort has been made to keep it from public cognisance.

On the other hand, the Paris correspondent of the *Times* says that confidential and detailed reports show that Russia is now quite in a condition to open and sustain a campaign. It must be hoped that this is known at Constantinople, and that the alleged weakness of Russia is not encouraging the resistance attributed to Midhat.

A letter from Bessarabia in the *Allgemeine Zeitung* says that the Russian troops there still leave much to be desired from a military point of view, and that the numbers of the 8th, 9th, 11th, and 12th army corps, which were to be posted *en échelon* between the Pruth, the Dniester, and the Dnieper, are not yet complete. Some troops are to be sent from Podolia and Lithuania, and measures have been taken for calling in the militia in case of need. This force is to supply 40,000 men from the military district of Odessa, and about as many more from those of Kharkoff and Kieff. Meanwhile the assemblage of troops on the Pruth is already so great that considerable difficulty is experienced in providing them with the most necessary protection against the weather. Both in Podolia and Bessarabia the troops have been obliged to have recourse to violence in order to obtain what was necessary for their subsistence. Hundreds of "requisitioned" carriages, wagons, and sledges cover the long military roads which connect the towns with the large railway stations; and Cossacks gallop from village to village, striking the peasants with the flat of their sabres when their demands are not instantly complied with. All the corn supply of the country between the Pruth and the Dnieper seems to have been appropriated for the use of the troops; the stores of provisions and forage are immense; but the great difficulty will be to convey them to the army when it has entered Turkey. Even in Podolia the roads are so bad that wagons, sledges, and animals are constantly breaking down; in Bessarabia they are even worse, and no improvement is certainly to be looked for on the other side of the Russian frontier.

The *Cologne Gazette* writes that Russia is now beginning to feel the pinch of her financial difficulties. The hundred millions of roubles raised by the "internal" loan are said to have been already swallowed up by the armaments in the South.

Preparations for the defence of the Turkish frontier are being rapidly pushed forward, troops every day arriving at or leaving Constantinople. Army corps are being formed, and generals are being sent to their destinations. The Egyptian regiments which recently arrived from the Servian frontier, and expected to remain at Constantinople, have been sent to Varna. In the event of war the Porte, it is stated, will form forty battalions of National Guards, comprising men of various religions, for Constantinople.

Abdul Kerim Pasha and Ahmed Eyoub Pasha, recently in command before Alexinatz, have already left, the former for Shumla and the latter for Rustchuk. The former will have the headquarters of his army at Shumla, for the defence of the passes of the Great Balkans, while Ahmed Eyoub Pasha, whose headquarters will be at Rustchuk, will have the control of the Turkish forces stationed along the Danube.

It is stated that four thousand Armenians, of Erzeroum, have requested permission to enlist as volunteers in the Turkish army in the event of war with Russia.

RUSSIA AND SERVIA.

The *Golos* says that Russia will allow neither Turkey nor Austria to occupy Servia.

The Belgrade papers state that the Russian General Nikitin, who arrived on the 25th, takes the command of the Servian army in place of General Tcherniaieff, who does not return to Servia.

The journals also announce that General Nikitin has held a review of the Russian divisions of the Servian army, on which occasion he declared to the officers assembled that he had come to Servia by order of the Emperor of Russia to assume command of the army. The general laid stress upon the point that all foreigners serving in the Russian corps in Servia would be considered as forming part of the Russian army. The same account adds that orders have been issued to the commanders of corps in Servia to proceed without delay to their posts, and that the volunteers have been ordered to leave for the Drina immediately.

It is stated from St. Petersburg that the request of the Servian Government to be allowed to send a representative to the Conference has been refused.

GREEKS AND SLAVS.

The *Neue Freie Presse* of Vienna publishes, in a letter from Constantinople, dated the 19th inst., an analysis of the memorial which was presented the day before to the Plenipotentiaries in the name of the Greek population of Turkey. It contains the following points:—

1. The Greek population of the Ottoman Empire believes in the possibility of an improvement in the general condition of the country and of all the populations of the Empire. The Government shows in this respect the best intentions, and it is its own well-understood interest to take a salutary initiative in this respect.
2. If the Greeks have shown themselves hostile to the Bulgarian insurrection, it was because they saw the hand of Russia in it.
3. There are no points of contact between the liberal spirit of Hellenism and Muscovite absolutism.
4. The Greek population by its attitude intended to facilitate the work of diplomacy and to make the maintenance of the *status quo* possible.
5. By favouring the Slavs of the Ottoman Empire, Europe would favour Slavism in the East to the detriment of the other populations.
6. The populations of Turkey which lend themselves as tools to a policy of races obtain everything, while those which take the advice of Europe earn but contempt and rebuke.

The memorial ends by expressing the hope that Europe will reject any proposal of special concessions to the Slavs. It is accompanied by a petition of the Greeks of Thrace and Macedonia, which says that if these provinces should ever be included in the term of "Bulgaria," a civil war between Greeks and Bulgarians would be sure to follow.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The report that Sir Henry Elliot, the British Ambassador, would leave Constantinople on Thursday is contradicted, and it is now stated that his excellency will take his departure only after the Conferences are concluded.

Nicosia has been revictualled during the armistice.

It is reported that Turkey is disposed to give Candia to the Greeks in exchange for their neutrality.

Congratulatory addresses have been sent to Midhat Pasha expressing the sympathy entertained by the Magyars for the Turks—that noble nation which had protected Hungarian patriots in times of difficulty and danger.

The Greek Chamber of Deputies has, after two refusals, at last consented to the passing of a Bill authorising a loan of 400,000*l.* for purposes of military organisation.

It is stated in a Constantinople telegram that the decree announcing that for five years only half the interest would be paid on the Turkish debt is to be annulled, and that the whole of the interest will be paid as soon as circumstances permit.

The dangerous dispute between Austria and Servia may be regarded as practically at an end. Owing to the energetic demand of Prince Wrede, Prince Milan has been compelled to accept the resignation of his Ministers as some reparation for the insult offered to the Austrian flag by firing on the monitor in the Danube. Austria threatened if such an affair happened again to take sufficient measures to preserve freedom of commerce in the Danube, and respect for its flag. It appears that the soldiers who fired at the Austrian monitor off Belgrade belonged to the Russian garrison of the Servian fortress.

The Persian Government, we are told, are attentively watching events in Europe, and it is said that, in the event of war, very probably the Persians will endeavour to occupy Bagdad.

The Porte has prohibited the exportation of cattle of any kind from Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is also asserted that the Turkish Government has ordered the Mussulmans in those provinces to hold themselves in readiness to take up arms if required.

Writing from Philippopolis, the special commissioner of the *Daily News* contradicts the official Turkish statement that 800 houses have been rebuilt in Bulgaria, and that there is no longer a family in the country without a shelter and a roof. He points out that, according to the reports of Mr. Schuyler and Mr. Baring, about 10,000 houses were burnt, and about 60,000 people rendered homeless. Not only, he adds, can 800 little huts not be made to shelter 10,000 families, but even the 800 do not exist, except in the official report. Five hundred would be a liberal estimate, and none of them will fully replace the fine large houses that were burnt. With regard to the punishment of the perpetrators of the atrocities, nothing has been done, although the commission which has the matter in hand has been sitting for three months.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

Telegrams from Cairo announce that Mr. W. G. Romaine has been appointed English Controller-General under the arrangements of Mr. Goschen's and M. Joubert's plan, while General Marriott has been appointed chief of the European administration of Egyptian railways. The Supreme Council of the Treasury has been abolished.

THE EMPRESS OF INDIA.—The proceedings at Delhi in preparation for the ceremony of proclaiming Her Majesty Empress of India on New Year's Day are the principal subject of the last three days' Indian news. The Viceroy arrived in the camp on Saturday afternoon, and is said to have been received well but quietly; there was no cheering. His Excellency with his family attended Divine service on Sunday in the camp, and in the church at Delhi on Christmas Day, after which he received many distinguished personages, native and foreign, in the Imperial camp.

THE EXTRADITION TREATY WITH AMERICA.—A Washington telegram says that, in consequence of the surrender of the prisoner Brent by England, Mr. Fish has notified to Sir Edward Thornton that President Grant will resume giving effect to the Extradition Treaty between England and the United States. The American correspondent of the *Daily News*, telegraphing on Tuesday, says:—"President Grant has availed himself of the occasion to express his gratification at the action of the British Government in surrendering Brent as evidence of its abandonment of the position it had taken up on the extradition clause of the treaty of 1842. The correspondence will be sent to Congress on Wednesday next."

POPULATION OF TURKEY.—The Turkish Ministry of Finance issued in 1867 a statistical notice, in which the population of Turkey is placed at 18,500,000 for Europe; 16,500,000 for Asia, with Cyprus; and 5,000,000 for Africa; making a total of 40,000,000 for the empire. But from this number must be deducted 9,000,000, or more properly 10,000,000, as belonging to the tributary States. This would leave 13,000,000 in Europe, 16,500,000 in Asia, and only 750,000 in Africa. In this computation Roumania is taken at 4,500,000, Servia at 1,250,000, and Egypt at 3,500,000. The total of 13,000,000 for Turkey in Europe is, however, too high, and, when checked by the local "Salnamehs" and other information, must be reduced to about 11,000,000. Messrs. Ubicini and Courteille put the total population of the empire, exclusive of the tributary States, at 28,500,000.

POVERTY IN NEW YORK.—From the *New York World* it appears that the greatest suffering has been caused to the poor and destitute of that city by the intensely cold weather that has prevailed. It is stated that the number of men out of employment is at present as high as 50,000, representing an aggregate of 200,000 human beings without means of support beyond those furnished by the various public and private charities. Owing to the want of appropriations this year, the most that can be done for these by the authorities is to furnish them with a meal for the day. The Board of Apportionment now has a resolution before it, authorising the expenditure of 100,000 *dols.* for outdoor relief, but it is doubtful whether it will be adopted unless public pressure is brought to bear in its favour. In the meantime, many are going without proper clothing, looking for food, and unable to get even the little fuel necessary to keep the temperature of their miserable apartments above the freezing point.

THE LATE CYCLONE IN BENGAL.—With regard to the condition of the people left alive after the storm-wave had passed over the Backergunge districts, the *Indian Daily News* says:—"We learn that the recuperative energies of the people have asserted themselves in a remarkable degree. This fact is also affirmed in private letters, which state that already everything seems to be going on as before the catastrophe, and that the need for help is much less than might have been imagined. This may have been the effect of the policy of bracing their nerves, and raising their spirits by granting relief very sparingly. But our advices hardly confirm that view. They rather state that the timely distribution of relief aroused the people from despondency, and enabled them to apply themselves to such forms of self-help as were possible in their circumstances. Terrible as seemed the effects of the storm at first sight, we understand that there is a recovery of the country that is little short of marvellous; and much help that was at first thought necessary may not now be required. Unless disease follow the great mortality already reported, there is not much to fear as regards the present, nor much cause for apprehension as to the future, except as regards cattle for agricultural purposes. The destruction of cattle exceeds that of human beings relatively to numbers; and there will be difficulty in meeting the requirements of the next sowing season as regards preparation of the land. Distance precludes the transport to Backergunge of the cattle of Bombay that are said to be perishing for lack of food; otherwise, in this respect, the calamities of the two places might be mutually relieved. Great credit is due to Mr. Barton for his prompt action and assumption of responsibility in the first instance. To him really belongs the credit of dealing with the case when action was necessary. The presence on the spot afterwards of the Lieutenant-Governor was merely another of the many happy accidents that seem to have befallen Sir Richard during a long career. But he seems to make even the accidents

of his life contributory to his glorification. Let the credit be given where it is really due; and there cannot be much difficulty in assigning it to the proper officer, and to those who volunteered and gave help long before the Lieutenant-Governor knew of the catastrophe."

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE FRENCH CHAMBERS.—The French Senate on Saturday finally passed the Public Worship Estimates, restoring, by 210 against 43 votes, the credit for the stipends of the clergy which had been reduced by the Chamber of Deputies. The House also reinserted, by 177 against 58 votes, the grant for six seminary scholarships which had been suppressed by the Chamber. The estimates of the Ministry of Finance and the Budget of Revenue having been voted, the Senate adjourned till this day, which was fixed for the debate upon the Budget of Expenditure and Public Works. In the course of the debate the Bishop of Orleans made a speech, which was much applauded, protesting against the illiberality shown by the Lower House to the clergy. M. Gambetta, in a sitting of the Budget Committee on Saturday, denied the right of the Senate to restore grants which had been suppressed by the Chamber. In this, however, it is said he is not supported by several of his colleagues. Both the French Chambers sat on Tuesday. The Senate passed the budget of public works and the general estimates of expenditure for the financial year 1877. The clauses adopted include one making a grant for scholarships at seminaries, and one providing that a census shall be made of all the communities and religious establishments existing in France, this article being agreed to by 143 against 127 votes. The clause proposing that the Chapter of St. Denis should be gradually suppressed was rejected. The Senate then adjourned *sine die*. In the Chamber of Deputies, M. Gambetta proposed, in the name of the Budget Committee, that the estimates of revenue, which had been slightly modified by the Senate, should be passed. The House assented unanimously to the motion. It was then arranged that the estimates of expenditure should be taken in the Chamber as soon as the Senate had concluded the debate upon them. The debate was fixed for Thursday. The House then adjourned in consequence of a fire breaking out in the roof of the hall. The fire was promptly extinguished. The conflict which has arisen between the two Chambers as to the right of the Senate to reinsert items in the Budget which the Lower House had struck out is exciting a good deal of interest. According to a telegram of last night, M. Jules Simon has communicated to the presidents of the several groups of the Left the view which the Government takes of the question. He considers that, as soon as the Chamber of Deputies has delivered its expected decision upon the Senate's amendments to the Budget, a fresh vote will have to be taken in the Senate, and if the latter should still be out of accord with the Lower House, the only issue from the difficulty will be a dissolution.

MESMERISM AND SOMNAMBULISM.

At a meeting of the Psychological Society, held at their rooms in Chandos-street, Cavendish-square, on Thursday night, a paper read by Mr. Coffin on Electro-Biology gave rise to a discussion, in the course of which Mr. Serjeant Cox, the president, said he had tried mesmeric experiments very often at one period of his life, and he was quite satisfied of their genuineness. The mesmeric sleep, he was convinced, was a self-induced condition; all that the operator did being to fix the mind of the patient on some one idea. There was a marked difference between the mesmeric and ordinary sleep; in the former a person did not lose the control over his limbs—he acted in a dream; whereas in ordinary sleep he was bereft of the power, and did not act the dream he thought he was acting. In mesmerism there were several stages. The first was a stage of mere sleep, and if left in that stage patients would remain sometimes for a very long time indeed. He had known them to remain asleep for fourteen or fifteen hours. The difference between mesmeric and ordinary sleep could be noticed by lifting the eyelids. When in the former sleep they would be seen pointed upwards, and in a state of nervous quiver. And, again, the hand, or arm, or leg of the sleeper could be raised, and by making a pass over it, it would remain fixed in a perfectly cataleptic condition. In this state, if the patients were left in that condition no more phenomena occurred. They remained in a passive cataleptic condition, that gradually merged into a condition of ordinary sleep, from which they awoke, in more or less time, much refreshed. He had once put a young man into a mesmeric sleep, from which he was unable to wake him, and he became much alarmed in consequence. It was, however, late at night, and the sleeper was carried up to bed, and when he went the next morning—of course, in a state of great anxiety—he found the young man, who had woken up during the night, considerably benefited by the sleep he had had. Some patients were awakened in a very few minutes. In the next stage of the mesmeric condition the whole body could be thrown into a cataleptic state at the will of the operator, and that will must be manifested by action; mere bidding would not do. It was necessary to make some motion indicative of the act the operator desired the patient to perform. To stiffen the arm, for instance, it was only necessary to take the arm and make one pass, and so with every member of the body. The body could be so stiffened that the

edge of the foot could be placed on a chair and the top of the head on another chair, and it would not fall to the ground, a condition which was perfectly impossible in a normal state. He had known a body to remain in that position half-an-hour, and three people could stand on it, while the patient was utterly unconscious of what was being done. That was what he would call the bodily stage of somnambulism. The next stage was the mental one. It was nothing more than somnambulism artificially produced. He had no doubt if an ordinary somnambulist were operated upon while asleep the same phenomena could be elicited. Persons in a state of somnambulism had been known to walk on a very narrow ledge at the top of a house, where no person with his senses about could walk with perfect safety, and it was obvious, therefore, that some sense must guide them in doing so. It was certain that was the result of some supersensuous perception. He had always found that when the patient had been brought to a stage of mental insensibility it was necessary for experiments partially to awaken him—to rouse the mind gently and judiciously, just sufficient to bring him to consciousness—a limited consciousness, but still a consciousness. The patient could then be made to do almost anything, although the eyes were in that upturned position at which vision was physically impossible, because the retina of the eye was turned quite out of the line of vision. In that state the mind was more active than it was in a more awakened condition; it was in a highly exalted condition—that is to say, that every faculty which could be called into exercise was then multiplied in the most commonplace patients tenfold, though he had seen it multiplied he would almost say a thousandfold in power. The most astonishing things were done, but not all the faculties were so multiplied at once. The difference, therefore, between the normal and the mesmeric sleeper was that one dreamt and realised in his own mind that he was going through a certain course of action which he really was not, while the other positively did act his dreams. Ordinary dreams came we knew not how—they were suggested by the spontaneous actions of our own minds, while mesmeric sleepers never acted anything unless it was suggested to them by another mind. It was not necessary, however, to suggest the whole action; it was enough to give the patient a perception that set the mind in action, and that being done, the mind acted upon that perception precisely as it did when we were dreaming ourselves, and constructed upon that perception a perfect dream, which was really acted. If, for example, it were suggested to the mesmeric sleeper that he was a preacher, he would, perhaps, although but an illiterate boy, stand up and preach an eloquent sermon, provided he had ever heard one. If it were suggested he was a singer, he would sing. The curious part of it was that if he were told to sing a comic song, he would sing one, and if stopped in the middle of it, and a hymn were suggested to him, he would leave off the song in an instant and sing a hymn; and if some time were allowed to elapse before he was operated upon again, and a comic song was suggested to him a second time, he would commence the song at the very note at which he previously broke off, and so with the hymn. During all that action of the mind the patient had no memory whatever of what occurred during his sleep—not the faintest. Another remarkable fact was that if a long interval—he had known it as much as twelve months—were allowed to elapse after a mesmeric operation before a patient was mesmerised a second time, he would remember everything that occurred in his somnambulous condition before. Mr. Serjeant Cox said he preferred the term somnambulism to mesmerism, which meant nothing. It was a psychological, and not a physical condition at all. The condition was simply that of will paralysis, leaving the mind without its volitional power. The brain was thrown into a semi-paralysed condition, in which it had not the power of exercising control over the body, and the brain was set in action by the will or by some influence which another person might have, and in that condition the patient fell into a curious state of sleep. After a good deal of study the speaker said he came to the conclusion that the cause of such excessive exaltation of the mental faculties was that the whole of the nerve force of the brain was directed through particular organs, concentrated in particular faculties. In our waking state the whole nervous force of the brain, or whatever might be the force that moved the mind, was distributed about all our faculties; in a state of somnambulism only a few faculties were excited, and it seemed as if the whole of the nerve-force was exalted through them, and therefore magnified by that concentration in the manner he had described. Professor Plumtre asked by what process Mr. Cox aroused somnambulist patients to partial consciousness for the purpose of experimenting. Mr. Serjeant Cox said he always did it by talking to them. The organ of hearing seemed to be the only faculty that was awake. It was very extraordinary that they always heard the operator's voice, although they would not hear any other sound in the room—not even the sound of a pistol being fired off; indeed, the lower he spoke to them, the better they seemed to hear it. Mr. Owen said, according to his theory it was the will that acted on the patients. Mr. Serjeant Cox said it was difficult to say whether they heard the operator's voice or were moved by his will. Of course he could not use the bodily words without having mental ideas of their mean-

ing. The phrenological aspects of the question were remarkable, and it was difficult to say when the operator touched the patients' heads whether it was his will or not that influenced them. He was inclined to think it was the touch and not the will. He once tried to touch the organ of benevolence on a patient who moved his head on one side accidentally, and caused him to touch that of combativeness instead, whereupon he immediately became pugnacious, thus throwing some doubt on the will theory. Mr. Serjeant Cox concluded by observing that if people who were sceptical on the subject would only inquire for themselves, they would enlarge their views on what must be admitted to be a most interesting and important subject.

Epitome of News.

The Queen, Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne), Princess Beatrice, and the Marquis of Lorne, attended Divine service in the private chapel, Windsor Castle, on Christmas morning.

Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to grant a pension of 50*l.* a year to Mr. Thomas Edward, of Banff. In communicating the fact of Her Majesty's bounty to Mr. Edward, the Premier says:—"The Queen has been much interested in reading your biography by Mr. Smiles, and is touched by your successful pursuit of natural science under all the cares and troubles of daily toil."

On Tuesday evening the royal family attended a concert at St. George's Hall, Windsor, when Mendelssohn's "Athalie," and selections from the musical compositions of Gounod, Verdi, and Rossini, were performed.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are spending the Christmas season at Sandringham.

It is stated that the Queen has signified her intention of opening Parliament in person, in semi-state, as last year.

The infant daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh is, according to a letter from Malta, to be called Victoria Melita, in recognition of the joy of the Maltese at her having been born in their island.

On the 21st inst. Lord Beaconsfield completed his seventy-first year, having been born on Dec. 21, 1805; and Mr. Gladstone on Saturday will complete his sixty-seventh year, his birthday being Dec. 29, 1809.

Another Cabinet Council was held on Friday, and it is officially announced that the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary are remaining in town during the Christmas holidays.

Lord Neaves, one of the judges of the first division of the Court of Session in Scotland, died in Edinburgh on Saturday after an illness of three days. He was the oldest judge on the Scottish Bench, having been born in 1800.

The funeral of the late Mr. Alderman Besley took place on Saturday at Battersea Cemetery.

Mr. Cross, in delivering the prizes to the pupils of the Liverpool College on Thursday, endorsed the words of the late Lord Derby and of Mr. Gladstone as to the necessity for education being religious. In drawing a distinction between teaching and education, he remarked that Germany had a reputation for affording better teaching than England, but he was quite sure that in England boys were infinitely better educated. Education was not confined to the schoolroom, but was to be found in the cricket-field, and the racket-ground. By education he meant the inculcation not only of learning, but of the discipline, self-control, courage, honesty, and truth which would remain in after-life. Speaking of the Universities, Mr. Cross recommended a curtailment of the vacation, so that the University course might be accomplished in less time than the four years now occupied.

A disastrous railway collision, by which five persons were killed and about twenty-five injured, took place on Saturday afternoon on the Great Northern line near Hitchin. The accident happened to the Manchester express from King's Cross. Whilst this train was passing at a high speed through the Arlesey siding, it ran into a luggage train which was crossing from the one side to the other. The express train was provided with vacuum brakes, but these do not seem to have been applied. Both the driver and the stoker of the train are among the killed. An inquiry into the cause of the accident was opened on Tuesday by Captain Tyler, the Government Inspector.

Mr. John Rolt, of Ozlewood Park, Gloucestershire, son of the late Sir John Rolt, whilst riding with the Berkeley Hounds on Saturday, was thrown from his horse in taking a fence, and died three hours afterwards from a fractured skull.

Relative to the Arctic craze, which has by no means been abandoned, Mr. James Lamont, F.G.S., writes to the *Times*:—"I beg to express my firm belief, founded on all I have seen, on all I have heard, and on all I have read, that all around the North Pole, as around the South Pole, there lies an eternal mass of ice a thousand miles in diameter and perhaps miles thick in the centre. And, further, I do not believe that either ship, sledge, man, beast, bird, or balloon will ever get across it."

It is believed that within the last fortnight nearly one hundred and twenty vessels have been wrecked on the east coast north of the Forth, and more than two hundred and fifty men drowned. One instance, which terribly illustrates the dangers of the seas, is reported from Wick. Early on Saturday morning a foreign schooner went ashore at Ackergill Bay. The crew were too much

benumbed by the cold to make use of a line, which, by means of a rescue apparatus, was flung to them from the shore. Nine brave fellows consequently manned a fishing boat and put off to help them. Three of the half-frozen crew of the wrecked ship were got on board, but when the boat turned back towards the shore it was swamped, and the whole party were thrown into the angry waves. The three foreigners, with four of their rescuers, were drowned, and only five of the nine who set out got back to shore. On Christmas morning the brig Mary, of Newcastle, was driven ashore in the Tyne, the crew being rescued by the lifeboat. The schooner Zephyr, of Cardiff, was wrecked on the Long Sand on Sunday afternoon, and six of the crew were drowned, the captain and one man being landed at Harwich by a smack.

A woman named Mary Ann Danby, fifty years of age, met with a terrible death yesterday morning at the Brettie Station of the Great Western Railway. She ran to kiss her daughter at a carriage window as the train was starting, and fell between the train and the platform. The train was immediately stopped; but Mrs. Danby was then dreadfully crushed and streaming with blood. She died in a few minutes. Her husband was on the platform at the time.

A large number of firms and gentlemen connected with the City of London have signified their approval of the proposal to establish an Imperial Museum for the colonies and India on the Old Fife House site on the Victoria Embankment, and several memorials have been addressed to Lord Beaconsfield on the subject. Memorials have also been forwarded from the Council of the East India Association and the National Indian Association to the Prime Minister in favour of erecting the museum on the site mentioned.

An order was made on Friday in Vice-Chancellor Malins' court for the sale of the Alexandra Palace, with a view to its being reopened next season.

Four executions took place last week in various parts of the kingdom. In every case the sufferers had murdered their wives or paramours.

It is stated that the Admiralty have asked to be furnished with designs for a gun which shall be capable of sending a projectile through thirty-six inches of armour at a distance of 1,000 yards. It is supposed that the new gun will weigh 150 tons.

The terrible catastrophe in the Brooklyn Theatre has been followed by the issue of a memorandum to the managers of the London theatres by the Lord Chamberlain, in which attention is called to the very serious responsibility under which they must personally be held with regard to the safety of the public in case of fire, and the importance to them of carrying out the regulations for providing abundant facilities of egress.

Further wrecks and serious loss of life are reported from the north-east coast of Scotland, as amongst the results of the recent disastrous gale. Railway traffic has been interrupted in consequence of the snow, and great damage has been done to the telegraph service.

Weston, the American pedestrian, brought his six days' walk to a conclusion at the Agricultural Hall on Saturday night, at half-past eleven, having completed 460 miles out of the 505 which he started to accomplish.

The lifeboat subscribed for by the Liverpool and Derby Plimsoll Lifeboat Fund was launched on Friday at Lowestoft. Rear-Admiral Robertson Macdonald received the lifeboat on behalf of the National Lifeboat Institution, and speeches were made by Mr. Plimsoll, M.P., and Mr. Colman, M.P. The boat was christened by Mrs. Plimsoll the Samuel Plimsoll.

Mr. Guildford Onslow, Mr. John Helsby, and the Plymouth Tichborne Release Committee, had twenty minutes' interview with the Claimant on Friday in Dartmoor Prison, by order of the Home Secretary. Instead of being received at the governor's room, as previously, Messrs. Onslow and Helsby were divided from the Claimant by iron bars, and there was a warden present. Mr. Onslow says he had never seen the Claimant so down-hearted and exasperated, and he complained bitterly of the warders. He is suffering from boils on his neck, and asked for a commission of inquiry respecting it. After twenty minutes' interview the visitors were ordered away.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson, speaking at a meeting in Dumfries last week, declared the Pernissive Bill was better than the Gothenburg system. His measure included in its scope all sorts of drinkers, and publicans and sinners of every description.

At a meeting of the Birmingham Board of Guardians on Thursday, Mr. Tyrer moved that the board cordially approve of the licensing scheme suggested by Alderman Chamberlain, M.P., believing that its adoption would greatly reduce the drunkenness and consequent pauperism of the country, and assuring him of their hearty sympathy and willing co-operation. The resolution was strongly supported, and after an amendment had been put and withdrawn, was carried unanimously.

The Liberals of the West of Scotland have just resolved to form one great Liberal Association for the extensive district including the counties of Lanark, Ayr, Dumfries, Wigton, Renfrew, Bute, Argyll, Dumbarton, and Stirling; and also the boroughs of Ayr, Wigton, Kilmarnock, Falkirk, Stirling, Paisley, and Greenock. Glasgow, meantime, is excluded. The association, however, it is said, is not to include advanced Liberals. The Northampton Liberals have also resolved to form a political association on the Birmingham model. A

committee has been appointed to carry out the scheme.

On Christmas night a frightful scene was witnessed in the guardroom of Chelsea Barracks, where several men belonging to the Grenadier Guards were confined. One of these men, named M'Connor, assailed another prisoner, named Johnson, as he lay on a bench, and killed him by repeated and violent kicks on the head. When the murderer was arrested he appeared to be just recovering from a frenzy produced by drunkenness, and said he "didn't care at all."

The friends of the "Claimant" have endeavoured to extract an opinion from the Bishop of Manchester on the value of the wonderful paragraph from a Spanish newspaper, in which the account of the wreck of the now famous *Bella* as related by Orton was confirmed to the letter. The Bishop replies, discreetly enough, that he has no means of forming a judgment upon the matter until the "documentary evidence" which his correspondence refers to has been sifted in a court of justice.

Baroness Bardett Coutts has, it is stated, purchased Cooper's-garden Chapel, Shoreditch, recently in the occupation of the Primitive Methodists, for 2,000*l.*, in order to establish a science institute for the district.

A railway accident, resulting in the death of a lady and serious injury to several other passengers, occurred in Ireland on Friday on the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway, a passenger train from Cookstown coming into collision with a goods train at Moylena.

Christmas Day in London was, in regard to weather, cold and cheerless, the air being raw, and rain falling during part of the day. The places of worship in which services were conducted were, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, generally well attended. At St. Paul's Cathedral the sermon was preached by the Dean, the Very Rev. Dr. Church, and at Westminster Abbey by Dean Stanley.

Boxing Day, being also the Bank Holiday, was well observed in London, both by the resident population and the numerous bands of visitors from the country who poured into the metropolis from an early hour. The various localities of public interest, such as the Tower, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's, and the numerous museums, had a constant succession of sightseers, and in the evening the theatres and other places of amusement were crowded.

At the metropolitan police-courts on Tuesday there were numerous charges of drunkenness and disorderly conduct arising out of the festivities of Christmas, but the aggregate amount of magisterial business does not appear to be extraordinary for this time of the year.

Frederick Treadaway, the young man charged with the murder of Mr. John Collins, and also with the attempted murder of Elizabeth Collins, the wife of the deceased, was brought up at the Westminster Court on Tuesday. Mr. Bealey informed the magistrate that he had been instructed to represent the prisoner, and at the request of the learned counsel, a remand was granted until Monday next.

As many as 162,000 Christmas cards have passed through the Manchester post-office during the last few days.

The *Newcastle Chronicle* announces that, owing to certain differences between the members of the Ironworkers' Union in the South Staffordshire district and the Executive Council in the North, the former have submitted certain proposals which threaten to result in a complete disruption of the union. The members have already fallen from 35,000, at which they stood three years ago, to 10,000.

The Probate Court has been engaged for some days in hearing an action brought by some of the grandchildren of the late Mr. Hall, stipendiary magistrate at Bow-street, London, against the son of that gentleman, who propounded a will of the deceased in his own favour. The amount at stake is about 140,000*l.* On Friday, after a long deliberation, the jury were unable to agree on a verdict, and were discharged.

The Court of Appeal has confirmed the judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench, which affirmed the conviction of Joseph Aspinall and Charles Knoch for obtaining a settling day on the Stock Exchange for the shares of the Eupion Gas Company by fraud and false pretences. The defendants have been removed to Holloway Prison, to undergo twelve months' imprisonment, subject, however, to the possibility of their finding bail in order to carry an appeal to the House of Lords.

A member of the Stock Exchange, named Cooke, became a defaulter in April, 1875, and on the demand of that body gave up a sum of 5,000*l.*, which was deposited with his banker. His father-in-law, who had advanced to Cooke over 100,000*l.*, took proceedings against him in bankruptcy, and the trustee under the bankruptcy demanded the return of the 5,000*l.* The Court of Appeal on Thursday considered the arrangement with the Stock Exchange was an attempt to cheat the rest of the man's creditors for the benefit of his Stock Exchange friends, with a view to his being reinstated in the course of time. It was ordered that the money should be refunded.

Dr. Sandwith, C.B., who is now at Belgrade, will contribute an article on the Serbian war to the forthcoming number of the *British Quarterly Review*.

Miscellaneous.

ALARMING ILLNESS OF SIR TITUS SALT.—We regret to state that Sir Titus Salt's illness has again assumed a most alarming aspect, and that last night he was reported to be sinking. The health of Sir Titus has been failing for six months past, but his illness only assumed a more serious form on Saturday, the 16th inst., when his medical attendant, Mr. W. Charteris, of Hipperholme, advised that the members of his family should be summoned. On the following Monday a medical consultation was held, when, the unfavourable symptoms having somewhat passed away, there seemed reason to hope that Sir Titus would recover from the effects of the attack. Signs of increasing weakness were, however, again observed, and despite the unremitting attention of all around him these could not be arrested. For several days he has been unable to receive nourishment in any form. He has not suffered at all, and has remained conscious throughout.—*Leeds Mercury* of Monday. The *Bradford Observer* of this morning says:—"We learned late yesterday evening that Sir Titus Salt still lingered in an excessively enfeebled state, he having become gradually weaker throughout the day."

OUR CANAL POPULATION.—The Commissioners appointed to inquire into the operation of the Factory and Workshops Act have reported that "nothing short of a prohibition of the residence of children of school age in canal boats will be sufficient to secure schooling for the offspring of the parents who at present reside permanently or a great part of the year in barges," and recommend that the residence in canal boats of female young persons, and of children above the age of three years, should be forbidden. The Council of the Social Science Association say, "These recommendations, it is believed, are owing entirely to the efforts of Mr. George Smith; and his friends, therefore, feel that such work deserves special aid, and propose to raise a fund, to be placed at his disposal, for the purpose of enabling him to press forward the task he has undertaken." Quite right that this should be done. We shall be excused, perhaps, for saying that if one of our early volumes be looked to, or the little books by Mr. Godwin, in which statements in our pages were gathered up, sketches will be found made by us on board canal boats, with descriptive particulars, showing the evil condition of the occupants of such craft, at a time when few knew we had a canal population.—*Builder*.

THE JEWS IN PALESTINE.—Mr. William Knighton writes to the *Times*:—"During the early part of this year I was in the Holy Land. Everywhere, from Dan to Beersheba, I saw evidence of the renewed energy and activity of the Jewish race. As a people the Jews are flocking back to the land of their forefathers in great numbers from all the countries in Europe. In Jerusalem and its neighbourhood particularly every plot of ground for sale is eagerly bought up by them. The Jews are a wealthy race. The Turks, who nominally govern their promised land, are greatly in want of money. Would it not be possible for the Jews to issue among themselves a new Turkish loan on condition that they should obtain the right of governing their own land under the guardianship of the great Powers of Europe? Would not many wealthy Christians be ready to assist them in this matter if the leaders of the Jewish community throughout Europe undertook it with some degree of vigour? A Republic or a sacerdotal Government might thus be established in Jerusalem, nominally under the Turks still, but really under the guarantee of the great Christian Powers of Europe—a Government which might be of incalculable benefit to Palestine, in which scarcely a farthing of public money is now spent for its improvement or for the development of its magnificent natural resources."

INCREASE OF SMALL-POX.—Though there is nothing in the present spread of the small-pox to excite alarm, the epidemic is increasing with sufficient rapidity to render every precaution desirable. In the return of the Registrar-General seventy-five deaths from small-pox were recorded as having taken place in London last week; the highest number since the present epidemic began. The hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board then contained 696 patients suffering from this disease; and at the meeting of the board held on Saturday it was resolved to extend the accommodation for small-pox patients by erecting pavilions at Fulham and Deptford for 300 and 390 patients respectively. It was further reported to the Asylums Board that a wooden erection had been built for the reception of more patients at Hampstead, besides an additional place for convalescents; and that wooden sheds were about to be constructed at Homerton. These preparations are rendered needful by the steady, and we must now say rapid, increase in the number of patients. There was not a single case of small-pox in any hospital this time last year, and there were only two in January. At the end of the second week in October last there were 102 patients at Stockwell and 76 at Homerton. The Hampstead sheds were only cleared for the reception of sufferers from small-pox at the end of October; and at the beginning of this week there were 273 cases there. In Lancashire the disease is also very prevalent. No less than 100 deaths were reported last week throughout the country. Many of the victims had never been vaccinated.

SLEEPLESSNESS.—On this subject a correspondent writes to the *Times* relative to a paragraph which recently appeared in a medical paper (and was transferred to our columns):—"I have known, and, un-

fortunately, for many years have had occasion to try, Dr. Cooke's plan, and I think I may say, with hardly ever-failing success. Most persons have some particular position in which they try to get to sleep. If they awake in the night, and cannot sleep, let the favourite position be assumed and six or seven deep breaths be taken. In breathing out, or respiring, the last or seventh time, let it be done as slowly as possible. At this point, the eyes being closed, not a limb, or muscle or eyelid must be moved, all must be as still and motionless as a marble statue. The mind should be fixed as far as possible on some pleasing object or train of thought, but on no account on any subject causing anxiety. This, if necessary, may be repeated, but in most cases sleep follows in a few minutes. Of course, I assume that it is a case of pure sleeplessness, and not attended with any pain or disease. The plan is simple and unattended with the danger which too frequently follows the use of morphia, hydrate, and other opiates."

THE SEA-SERPENT ECLIPSED.—An extraordinary report appeared a few days ago in the papers of an explosion and sudden disappearance of an unknown vessel off Portland. A still more extraordinary explanation of the matter is given by a correspondent of the *Dorset County Chronicle*, who states that when on the look-out at Portland Bill on the morning when the alleged explosion occurred, he saw what at first appeared a long, low, dismantled ship, with short stumpy jury-masts, about one mile S.S.W. off Portland. She looked like a vessel broken-backed, as her stem and stern were well out of water, and something like smoke or steam was rising up in midships. To his surprise, on looking through a telescope, he saw it was "a monster fish, with head and tail rising high above the swell of the sea, and the back nearly down to the level of the water, and what appeared at first to be smoke or steam, was large jets of water, thrown up like a big whale blowing. The stumpy masts were immense long fins. All at once, with a tremendous bound, at least thirty or forty feet high, and down again almost like lightning, the huge monster disappeared." This statement, it is said, is confirmed by Captain Cosens, Gibbs, and Mace, who went out in the *Commodore* in search of the crew or fragments of the supposed vessel. They saw an "immense monster of the deep" throwing up jets of water, and making itself painfully conspicuous by its eccentric proceedings. This remarkable creature is evidently not the sea-serpent, but something far more interesting and disagreeable. Indeed, it is impossible not to feel sorry for the sea-serpent, whose charms are entirely eclipsed by the Portland monster.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE SUPPLY OF MEAT FROM AMERICA.—Everybody, except perhaps vegetarians, will be glad to hear that the experiment of importing fresh meat from America to England has been attended with complete success. It was commenced in a small way fifteen months ago, and it now forms an important branch of transatlantic commerce, the vessels of the Guion and White Star lines carrying consignments on every voyage to Liverpool, at the rate of about 600 tons a week. Yet, strange to say, though this large quantity arrives in Liverpool, it is nearly all sent immediately to London, Birmingham, and the Midland counties, a very small quantity remaining in Liverpool, and little, if any, coming to Manchester. To whatever cause this is due, it is a circumstance to be regretted. A suggestion is made by a contemporary that it is owing to a kind of tacit combination on the part of butchers not to encourage the sale of meat which will compete with their ordinary stock and tend to curtail the large profits which they make out of the latter; but that view may not be the correct one, and it is certain that so far as profits are concerned, the butchers would do as well with the one as the other. It is more likely to be due to prejudice, like that with which Australian meat was for a long time regarded, and experience of the excellence of the article is the only way in which such a prejudice may be removed. Of the soundness of its quality there seems to be evidence of a most satisfactory kind. The Queen has written an autograph letter to a shipper in America, who was one of the originators of the trade, expressing Her Majesty's entire satisfaction with a sample joint which was forwarded to her. The Prince of Wales, the Lord Mayor, and the Governor of the Bank of England, speaking in their capacity of Englishmen and therefore born judges of beef, have expressed themselves to the same effect; while the butchers themselves admit that it is good sound beef. The chief benefit which the importation gives to consumers is, of course, that it reduces prices. It can be sold, it appears, at a profit to the importer, at rates varying from 2*d.* to 3*d.* per pound under the ordinary charges of the butcher, so that the workman will no longer be compelled to pay 10*d.* or 1*s.* a pound for his beef; while the tendency of a competition will be to reduce the high-prices for the home-bred article. While, on the one hand, England is being supplied with fresh meat from the States, on the other, she is receiving live stock from Canada. A herd of sixty head came to Liverpool a few days ago, and they are the forerunners of some thousands of beasts now undergoing fattening for the English markets. These are seasonable facts, especially welcome just now, for the thought that meat is becoming cheaper will in many homes make merry Christmas all the merrier.—*Manchester Examiner*.

The concluding volume of Mr. Martin's "Life of the Prince Consort" is to be ready in March.

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The Nonconformist.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1876.

SUMMARY.

ON Saturday last, in the plenary Conference, to which the Turkish Plenipotentiaries were admitted, the conclusions of the six Treaty Powers were formally presented, and Safvet Pasha, the Ottoman Minister of Foreign Affairs, promised that the Porte would give them due consideration. Simultaneously, and as a kind of *coup de théâtre*, the new Constitution which has been elaborated by Midhat Pasha, the new Grand Vizier, was promulgated amid the roar of cannon; and it is easy to imagine that the Plenipotentiaries were amused at this intentional coincidence. The substance of both documents—the modest demands of the Powers, and the magnificent charter conceded by the Sultan—has been given to the world. The latter is almost as liberal as any civilised Western nation could wish, but is in the main a confirmation of previous decrees which have, up to the present time, remained a dead letter. The former is a business-like scheme intended not for show but for practical operation. On Tuesday Lord Salisbury had a private interview with the Sultan, and the conversation which then ensued has been absurdly magnified into the presentation of an ultimatum. It may be supposed that his lordship would urge upon Abdul Hamid the policy of yielding to the claims of the Powers, and may have informed him that a refusal would necessitate a withdrawal of the European ambassadors from Constantinople. But the official answer of the Porte requires serious deliberation, and was to be given at to-day's sitting of the Conference. The British fleet has indeed been ordered from Besika Bay to the Piræus, but this decision, it is stated, is quite independent of political consideration.

There is no expectation that the first reply of Safvet Pasha will be decisive—that is, the proposals of the Powers are not likely to be absolutely rejected. "Both Midhat Pasha and Safvet Pasha seem to be personally in favour of the maintenance of peace, and the Plenipotentiaries, in order to overcome the resistance of the Porte, appear disposed to discuss certain details provided that the principles laid down by the Powers are maintained. Great efforts will be made to avoid a rupture, and most of the foreign representatives entertain a hope that no rupture will occur." Such is the latest telegraphic news from the Turkish capital. The European Cabinets are ready to make the International Commission of Supervision, and the foreign police to enforce its decisions, as palatable as possible. They are quite willing to gild the pill; but the patient

must swallow it, and probably will eventually do so. Short of giving up "effectual guarantees," there is no doubt that Russia is disposed to concede anything—the people, as well as the Czar himself, being averse to war. Indeed, a winter campaign with all its perils is not to be thought of; and, as Austria is showing a disposition to part company with Russia at the critical moment, there is a strong desire at St. Petersburg for an amicable settlement. An immense force is gathered along the banks of the Pruth, which must soon be withdrawn or be sent forward to invade the Ottoman territory.

So far as regards the weather, we have not spent an agreeable Christmas. It could hardly have been worse for outdoor enjoyment. In London a heavy rainfall was succeeded by snow, a slight frost, and more rain. The country bordering on our chief rivers is to a great extent under water. But from Scotland the news is more serious. We hear of very severe snowstorms, and of trains snowed up; on the East coast of terrible gales which have destroyed scores of vessels and many scores of lives. A railway accident on a large scale, caused by the inevitable goods train, has added to the depressing atmospheric influences, and has resulted in the death, near Hitchin, of five passengers, and the maiming of some twenty more.

The election for Liskeard resulted in the return of Mr. Leonard Courtney, by a majority of 107 votes over Lieutenant-Colonel Sterling. Both the candidates avowed a Liberal creed; the difference between them being mainly on the Eastern Question. If this little Cornish borough is not the mouthpiece of English opinion, it is satisfactory to find that its verdict has been on the right side, and that it has returned a man of mark to the House of Commons. The revival of the Liberal party throughout the country is indicated by many signs. In several constituencies they are exercising a wise forethought by choosing their candidates for the next general election. In other towns we hear of the increase of Liberal clubs, and of a strong desire for effective organisation. One great Liberal Association has been formed for the West of Scotland, though we fear it is designed rather to promote the objects of the Whig section, and enable them to occupy the ground, than to promote the general Liberal cause. It is notorious that the most influential paper north of the Tweed, the *Scotsman*, is indefatigable in commending a Liberal creed in which disestablishment will be entirely ignored.

French legislators do not allow themselves much of a Christmas holiday. The Senate has been busy discussing the Budget and reinstating the ecclesiastical items struck out by the Chamber of Deputies. This has been done to so large an extent as to amount to a distinct challenge. M. Gambetta is ready to accept it on the ground of principle; the Liberal leader denying the right of the Upper House to restore cancelled votes. His followers are somewhat divided. Part of them are prepared to follow their leader; but the more moderate section would prefer to fight on the specific votes. The Government hold aloof from the conflict, giving, however, a gentle reminder that, if the reinstated votes are disallowed by the Chamber, and again restored by the Senate, a dissolution will be necessary.

The other items of foreign news are not of paramount importance. The Emperor William has dissolved the German Parliament in a speech of no great significance; but in the elections which impend the Parliamentary opponents of Prince Bismarck are likely to be increased.—The gigantic camp at Delhi, formed to inaugurate the proclamation of the Queen as Empress of India, with its array of native princes and its display of Oriental magnificence, will cheer the spirits of our Prime Minister. It is almost a pity that Lord Beaconsfield is not there to assist in so congenial a ceremonial, instead of remaining in Downing-street to see his "spirited foreign policy" crumble away beneath the demands of Lord Salisbury.—The Earl of Derby, who was lately betrayed into a somewhat foolish controversy with Mr. Fish as to the interpretation of the Extradition Treaty, has gracefully surrendered his views to the detriment of no one but criminals. The concessions he has made are handsomely acknowledged by President Grant in a Message to Congress, and the treaty remains in force. The joint committee of the two Houses of Congress is engaged in finding a solution of the Presidential problem, and will probably recommend that the House should, under the special circumstances, choose the President, and the Senate the Vice-President. In that event, Mr. Tilden will be the next occupant of the White House.

"THE MOMENTOUS QUESTION."

PEACE or war? Which is it to be? Which of the two will preside over the year just about to commence? All Europe asks the question with intense anxiety, and no wonder; for not only the material, but even the moral, interests of most of the European States are, to a large extent, dependent upon the answer which will be given to this momentous question. The business prospects of countless myriads of heads of households will remain depressed, as at present, by a longer continuance of uncertainty. They are all, as it happens, subject to the decision of a Power which has already proved that it holds itself but little concerned about its own economical, commercial, or financial future, and which, therefore, cannot be supposed to sympathise much with the natives north and west of her. So far, undoubtedly, the dawn of the New Year presents a doubtful aspect. But there is a ground of hope that now awaits only a decision of the Turkish rulers. The preliminary Conferences held at Constantinople by the plenipotentiary delegates of the guaranteeing Powers have resulted in agreement. The proposals of united Europe have been tendered to the Porte. The first Plenary Conference has been held under the presidency of Safvet Pasha, and the ultimatum—for in substance it may be regarded as such—of the six Powers has been presented to him in due form. He has claimed reasonable time for making himself conversant with the contents of the document, and to-morrow, we believe, he will be prepared to discuss the matter now submitted to the decision of the Ottoman authorities. There cannot be much doubt as to what will be the tenor of his first reply. The Plenary Conference had hardly constituted itself when Turkish cannon made themselves heard, and Safvet Pasha hastened to inform the assembly that the discharge of artillery proclaimed to the people of Constantinople the birth of a Constitution professedly elaborated with a view "to regenerate Turkey." The assembled Plenipotentiaries are said to have received this information with perfect indifference, and no reply whatever was made to it.

Midhat Pasha's Constitution, compiled from English and French ideas, has since been published. It professes, says the Paris correspondent of the *Times*, "to introduce the principle of administrative order and liberty, tempered by laws—in other words, the ideal of a political condition which the most civilised nations in Europe have not yet entirely realised." What could have been the object of the Turkish rulers in thus solemnly promulgating so broad a constitution? What, but to tell the Conference that no constraint was needed to induce them to grant some liberties, for of their own will they had agreed to give all, and not to some provinces only, but to all the subjects of the Ottoman Empire, Moslem and Christian. The labours of the Conference, therefore, would become useless, since it could only demand liberties less than those they had themselves proclaimed. The reply of the united Powers in reference to this clever tactical movement will probably, as it is the most obvious, be to the following effect:—The promulgation of a complete broad Liberal constitution does not put an end to our mission or our programme. You are at war with Serbia and Montenegro. Two of your provinces, Herzegovina and Bosnia, are in revolt, and Bulgaria shudders at the recollection of the massacres she has undergone. Our mission, neither more nor less, is to settle your difficult and dangerous relations with these provinces. We have drawn up our programme with a view to this result, and beg you to accede to it. Give your subjects all the political and social liberties which you may think to be best adapted to their present condition. We shall make no opposition to such a step, neither shall we, in consequence of it, arrest our steps in the path marked out for us, and upon which we have already entered.

The programme adopted by the Conference and submitted to the acceptance of Turkey is far more moderate in its terms, and far less objectionable in its form, than had been anticipated. Russia has made large concessions, in return for which England has signified her adherence to the scheme proposed. It settles the question of the conclusion of peace between the Porte, Serbia, and Montenegro; it demands the union of Herzegovina and Bosnia in a single vilayet; the division of Bulgaria into two vilayets, the Balkan being the line of demarcation; the nomination of three Christian governors by the Porte, subject to the advice and approval of the Powers; a mixed International Commission charged with watching over the strict execution of the reforms insisted on; and, to protect this commission of supervision and execution, a Corps of Military Gendarmerie,

recruited from volunteers of neutral States, placed under the orders of the governors of the provinces, wearing the Turkish cockade and badge, paid by Turkey or by her reformed provinces, and destined to complete and reinforce the Corps of Zaptiehs.

It will be seen by this, not only that the Sovereignty of the Sultan in his own dominions has been touched to as little an extent as possible and with the utmost delicacy, but that the question of military occupation has been got rid of by a compromise. Everything, therefore, has been done by the representatives of the six Powers—consistently, at any rate, with the object they have met at Constantinople to achieve—to treat with lenient indulgence the susceptibilities of the Porte. The question now occurs, will the Porte listen to these proposals? The correspondent of the *Daily News* at Constantinople believes that it will. The general opinion, he says, in that city favours a resolution of yielding to the demand of the whole of Europe. Not that the Sultan's Ministers can be expected to give way at once. They will, doubtless, throw obstacles in the way of an immediate settlement, thereby to obtain the best terms that they can. But when they see the Powers will concede nothing further they will give in. Their difficulties are already enormously great, and are being multiplied every week. The income of the Government is diminishing, and its credit is gone. And in the hearty co-operation of Russia and England, the withdrawal of the British fleet from Besika Bay, and the prospect of the retirement in the last resort of Lord Salisbury and Sir H. Elliot from the Turkish capital, they can hardly fail to see that peace is only to be preserved by the timely concession of the demands of the Powers.

MR. BAXTER, M.P., ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

THE Right Hon. W. E. Baxter, the member for the Montrose Burghs, has recently been addressing his constituents. The remarks of a politician who has had no slight official experience, whose Liberal principles have been staunchly adhered to, and whose practical mind and wide observation enable him to form a sound judgment on foreign affairs, are well worth listening to and freely commenting upon.

In his speech at Brechin a week ago, Mr. Baxter dealt briefly with domestic politics; but what he said on the subject was suggestive. He referred in pointed terms to the conflict now proceeding on the Continent and in America, as well as in England, between the Sacerdotal party and the people on the subject of national education, and the general tendency of denominational interests to succumb as the struggle proceeds. This is manifest even in Scotland; still more so in England; and Mr. Baxter, albeit not given to exaggeration, regards the recent School Board elections in London "as perhaps the most important triumph which the party of freedom and progress has effected in our time"—an event indeed marking the turn of the tide in favour of Liberal principles. We do not, of course, hear much in these days of free-trade, but Mr. Baxter was able to trace the small effects produced by the long-continued commercial depression upon the social condition of the people of this country as compared with those of the United States; to the superiority of our fiscal system. In the United States protection has greatly aggravated the evils of restricted trade, so that at the present time New York has relatively a larger pauper class than London, and employment is there far more difficult to obtain than here.

The right hon. gentleman has also made his contribution to the liquor problem. Contrary to the usual impression, he does not believe that the greater part of the increased wages of the working class has been expended in intoxicating drinks. Against the fact that some thirty-four millions of the revenue are supplied by the duties on wines, spirits, and beer, he has analysed a recent Parliamentary return, showing the comparative consumption of eleven articles in the decennial periods 1853, 1863, and 1873 with the result stated in the following table:—

CONSUMPTION OF IMPORTED AND EXCISABLE ARTICLES PER HEAD OF THE TOTAL POPULATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM:—

	1853.	1863.	1873.
Bacon (lb.)	0.81	6.09	9.07
Butter (lb.)	1.61	3.65	4.39
Cheese (lb.)	1.55	2.85	4.69
Eggs (number)	4.48	9.08	20.56
Rice (lb.)	2.25	5.58	11.37
Sugar (lb.)	29.57	36.01	51.56
Tea (lb.)	2.14	2.90	4.11
Tobacco (lb.)	1.07	1.27	1.41
Wine (gallons)	0.25	0.35	0.56
Malt (bushels)	1.49	1.67	1.98
Spirits, home and foreign (gallons)	1.10	0.85	1.23

Hence it would appear that during these periods the consumption of beer, spirits, and tobacco have increased in a smaller ratio per head than those articles which may be regarded as the necessities of life. We fear, however, that there has been an extraordinary development of the liquor traffic during the three years that have elapsed since 1873, which has only been checked, as the recent revenue returns indicate, by the general decline of wages. Mr. Baxter, however, like all social reformers, would rejoice to see an adequate remedy for the excessive use of spirituous liquors to put in force either by reforming the present licensing system, or by giving a fair trial to the Gothenburg plan, which is commended by some distinct advantages, such as that it would ensure a reduction in the number of public-houses, make the enforcement of strict regulations easy, check adulteration, and sweep away those gigantic and growing vested interests which are the greatest barriers in this country to temperance reform. It is satisfactory to know that the Gothenburg system is likely to be fully discussed during the ensuing session of Parliament, and that the conviction is growing amongst thoughtful people, irrespective of party, that something must be done to check the terrible evils of the drink traffic.

On the Eastern Question, which he has studied at Constantinople and in Asia Minor, as well as at Dundee, Mr. Baxter is thoroughly at home. He does not hesitate to express his belief that Mr. Gladstone and his friends have saved the country from a position of humiliation, isolation, and failure, and restored the fair fame of this great nation, which has been tarnished in every Eastern land, while at the same time the right hon. gentleman takes note of the fact, which Conservative orators and newspapers are so reluctant to admit, that Her Majesty's Ministers have been driven by the force of public opinion from pillar to post, until they have absolutely adopted the programme of the Liberal leaders. Mr. Baxter sees no insuperable difficulties in settling the Eastern Question for the benefit of the whole population of Turkey, Mahomedan as well as Christian. The great obstacle to the needed reforms is not so much the antagonisms of race and religions as the existence and influence of the corrupt official classes which prey upon Turkey:—

He made no attack either on a race or a religion, but he arraigned at the bar of public opinion the hundred or two officials at Constantinople, by no means all of whom are Turks, who cared little about the Koran or the Successor of the Prophet, but who had organised what was neither more nor less than a system of brigandage. In every part of the Turkish Empire, whether in Europe or in Asia, both Christians and Mussulmans eagerly desired deliverance from their corrupt and cruel sway. These men were the great promoters of the foulest slave-trade that the world had ever seen, and his hearers could scarcely form any conception of the miserable state into which they had reduced some of the finest provinces in the world. It was to him humiliating that such a worthless set, calling themselves a Government, should have English officers serving under their banners; and he confessed that it was with indignation that he saw newspapers in this country pandering to the passions of the most ignorant among the people, fanning the flame of a barbarous desire for war, and endeavouring to bolster up a Power upon which the sentence of "Mene, Mene, Tekel" had been pronounced a long time ago.

This is well said. It is the pernicious monopoly of this caste that is now threatened by the scheme agreed to by the Treaty Powers, which would be virtually untouched by Midhat Pasha's Utopian Constitution, and which will certainly be destroyed if the sword should be drawn. Mr. Baxter points to the precedent of Syria as a proof of the beneficial influence of external control. The Lebanon district has a Christian governor, whom the Porte cannot remove, and, says Mr. Baxter, "the state of the population in these mountains affords a delightful contrast to the poverty and wretchedness and criminality prevailing all around them." What was done on the Lebanon could be done on the Danube; and this is the object of the plan which now awaits the acceptance of the Porte. But, as the member for Montrose truly remarks, the Eastern Question has now begun to solve itself, and the first step has been taken towards a dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, which neither a Beaconsfield nor an Andrássy can avert by any political combinations or diplomatic intrigues.

A biography of Marshal Prim, compiled from the family documents, is preparing at Madrid.

Messrs. Smith and Elder are about to publish a life of the late Sir James Outram. The documents are all collected, but it is not yet settled who will edit the work.

The British Museum excavations at Nineveh are at a standstill, as Mr. Rassam, the successor of Mr. George Smith, cannot get the necessary firman from the Turkish Government.

A child had been taken to a funeral. On coming home, it said: "Mother, who were those men holding those things?" "Pall-bearers, my love." "When I grow up I'll be a pall-bearer." "Why?" "Because then I shall be buried last."

Literature.

SIR G. CAMPBELL'S HANDY BOOK ON THE EASTERN QUESTION.*

It has lately more than once been suggested that if the disturbed provinces of European Turkey could for a time be placed under the absolute authority of a few of our most experienced Indian statesmen, it would be possible to look forward to a day when a tolerably satisfactory solution of the Eastern Question would be arrived at. Unfortunately the idea is a wholly impracticable one; but we are sure that every candid reader of Sir George Campbell's "Handy Book" will regret that the experiment cannot be made. Sir George himself is an administrator who has had to deal with races and elements quite as turbulent as those which exist in the Ottoman Empire; and his book contains ample evidence of the fact that there are many analogies between the circumstances of India and those of Turkey, and that the experience derived from the government of one Oriental people is in many respects applicable to that of every similar people. Sir G. Campbell's special training, as well as his faculty of acute observation, has enabled him to collect a vast amount of information, at once comprehensive and minute, and to make many suggestions of great practical value.

One fact which is brought out very clearly in Sir G. Campbell's pages is the enormous preponderance of the Slav element in European Turkey—an ethnological fact which, it appears, is peculiarly irritating to the Greeks, and is the key to much that is dubious in their position. The Greeks are very sparse in Bulgaria, the only explanation he could get being that they are a commercial and pushing people, fond of town rather than of country life, and who therefore do not settle in the agricultural districts. Sir George discusses Mahomedanism in a spirit entirely free from prejudice, and he does not hesitate to express his conviction that a good Mahomedan is a better man than an indifferent Christian. It is satisfactory to have such high authority for the statement that there is no nearer connection between the Sultan of Turkey and the Indian Mahomedans than there is between the Emperor of Russia and the great body of English or French Christians. Sir George reminds his readers that, historically speaking, the Indian Mahomedans were always the implacable enemies of the Turk. Moreover, he declares that there is no *solidarité* among them; and that as they are mostly agriculturists of the humbler class, their religious zeal is very limited in its sphere of activity. He considers that the ordinary Turk possesses many virtues, his chief faults being attributable to the circumstance that he has been only taught military service, and therefore regards "quill-driving and commerce" as belonging exclusively to the inferior races. Although despising the Christians, he too is far from being in a good temper with the Ottoman Government, or in the mood to endure with patience the burthens which it imposes upon him. The following passage describes the feeling of a large portion of the Mussulman population:—

In truth I am convinced that it is really the case that of late years the Turks, deprived of their ancient privileges, subjected to the ill-regulated revenue demands of the State, and to the gross and increasing misgovernment of a despotic bureaucracy, drained of their manhood to supply an overgrown and underpaid army, and little competent to hold their own in peaceful arts against their rising neighbours, are in a very bad position, and becoming more and more discontented every day. No wonder that they are not in the best humour, and that they have been found ready enough instruments to plunder and to kill.

The old Turk is being gradually thrust out of the way by the young Turk, who talks French, has seen Paris, and possesses a veneer of Boulevard manners. These Turks of the modern school are not so clever as is supposed, but in politics they are a good deal assisted by astute Armenians and Greeks, who are content to play a secondary part. They are given to drink and other vices, and are far from paying heed in these respects to the teachings of the Koran. The real evil of the Turkish system is in the *personnel* of the ruling class at Constantinople, which consists of a knot of from one to a hundred pashas:—

The great mystery is, how a man enters this charmed circle: it is not education—many of them are exceedingly uneducated—it is not birth or rank, there is no hereditary rank in Turkey, and official rank is much less hereditary than we should expect it to be. It seems rather surprising that one does not hear more of liberal nepotism in Turkey. Probably the family tie is not so strong as with us, and the Mahomedan system "abhors heredity," as a lawyer might say. At any

rate the fact seems to be that there is rather an official than an actual heredity—a man rises to be a great man by being the servant, the understrapper, the favourite of great men. A little time back it was notorious that men got on the first round of the ladder by the basest functions in a great man's establishment. Now things may not be quite so bad, but it remains that an aspirant commences by being either a personal servant or a humble hanger-on; and all the offices and houses of great men are filled with such hangers-on. Probably the successful men must have some talent of a sort to enable them to ingratiate themselves with their patrons; very often they seem to have little other talent. Such men certainly rise from much lower positions than would be possible in this country, and with much less to recommend them. Still, in these days of contact with Europe, education has its advantages, and probably a young man who has learned French and Frenchified his manners has a considerable advantage. I saw somewhere an amusing account of how a young man of this sort rises by getting into debt, which reminded me of things that used to be alleged of young Indian civilians in times gone by, when native usurers were said to supply them very freely with money in their early days, in order to keep an obligation of debt over them—though I believe such cases were always rare. In Turkey, it is said, a likely young man goes to some Armenian or other usurer accustomed to such dealings, who has great men already in his power, and holds a powerful machinery in his hands. If the applicant is thought to have good points for the Turkish stakes, he gets it, and spends it in Frenchified pleasures; and when he is sufficiently secured by debt, he is introduced to the establishment of a great man, and pushed on by his powerful patron behind the scenes. Not only is there a constant struggle for fresh patronage among the leading men at the capital, but it seems that, under a Sultan who to some degree governed, the palace got a large share of the plunder. Large *douces* were paid somewhere for every appointment; especially the mother of Sultan Azeem is said to have claimed a *douceur* before the Imperial sign-manual was obtained. These payments on appointment are a great temptation to constant change—and constant change seems to have become a settled part of the system. No man remains long in any office in the provinces—it is a continual turn and turn about. As soon as one man has had his suck, another is put on, and his predecessor must seek a fresh appointment obtained by the usual means.

It is clear that so long as Turkey is cursed with this corrupt bureaucracy it is impossible that there can be any adequate guarantee for the reforms which the Great Powers may extort from the Government at Constantinople, or that any paper Constitution drawn up by ambitious pashas can have the least practical value. Sir G. Campbell is amazed that the British Ambassador should have played into the hands of this profligate clique, or that at any time there should have been the slightest doubt as to the sympathy of the British Government with the efforts of the Christian population to obtain freedom. He gives to the Bulgarians a high character, and utterly scouts the idea that their very partial rising against Ottoman misrule was characterised by any peculiar acts of atrocity. The reprisals, however, were to the last degree sanguinary and brutal. Although the massacres at Batak were the work of fanatical mountaineers directed by a Turkish official at Tatar Bazarjik, who placed them under the command of the notorious Achmed Aga, at Perostitza, Ortakeiu, and other places, where horrors of hardly inferior savagery were perpetrated, regular troops were employed and proved themselves equal in ferocity to the Pomaks. Our author considers that the Turkish Government is absolutely responsible for these crimes. He does not conceal his suspicion that Abdul Kerim Pasha, the commander-in-chief, who was at Adrianople at the time, had a hand in the massacres, while he is confident that they were deliberately planned in the inner official circle. This is a dreadful charge to make even against a Government which sticks at nothing that stands in the way of the accomplishment of its purposes; but it appears to be justified no less by the facts than by the probabilities of the case. We will now give a portion of Sir G. Campbell's testimony on this point:—

Those who know the country best tell me that they found their confidence, that these terrible things were done in pursuance of a policy of stamping out the rebellion by such examples as should effectually deter others, on the really tractable character of the ordinary Turks, and the belief that they would never have ventured on such things on such a scale without official instigation and direction. This view is, to my mind, entirely confirmed by my own observation. There was no indiscriminate slaughter, plunder, and destruction, such as might be the work of an unregulated mob. Not a soul was touched, except those whom the Government desired to make an example of. Not a single Bulgarian Catholic, not a Protestant, not a Greek, not a foreigner was touched, only the Bulgarians of the Bulgarian Church—there was the most exact discrimination. Then, as I saw myself, the total destruction of the doomed places was not such destruction as a mob seeking plunder commits. I have seen many places which have been sacked and plundered, but never any thing like one of these Bulgarian towns, in which the destruction is so complete and systematic I cannot doubt that it was deliberately carried out as an example.

Sir George is no Russophobic. He disposes of this bugbear in a sentence:—"Constantinople is not one step nearer to India than they (the Russians) already are: the route evidently is by Turkistan and the Caspian, not through Asia

Minor." He even believes that if the Red Sea were closed for a time, the old route round the Cape would enable us to hold our ground in India against Russia or any other Power, and he is equally convinced that if our Muscovite rival entertains the designs attributed to him, the only way to secure the defeat of those designs is by conferring upon the Christian inhabitants of Turkey the benefits of self-government, and by placing them under the protection of the public law of Europe. The vast majority of thoughtful politicians will, we feel sure, sympathise with views so evidently based upon an intelligent and statesmanlike examination of the subject.

"THE SHADOW OF THE SWORD."

Mr. Buchanan designates this "a romance," and in the main the epithet applies. But it should not be taken to imply that the "bare truth" of human nature and ordinary probability are by express intention set aside. On the contrary, we are told in a note that "the leading character is taken from life, and that many of the extraordinary circumstances occurred as described in the text." It is not then a romance in the sense that Mr. MacDonald's "Phantasies" is a romance, or Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Transformation." In the case of these the effect of unity is gained by the assumption of a sphere in which the ordinary laws of the common world have no part. We accept the symbols which are held in relation as an image of a wholly ideal world which lies in the mind of the writer, all consistent with itself. This kind of consistency is not to be sought in Mr. Buchanan's "Shadow of the Sword." It is a romance only in so far as it is pervaded by a certain atmosphere of weird and elevating meaning and purpose. This, however, is not inconsistent with the revelation of real types of character, which are brought out all the more powerfully by the background of mystic suggestion on which they move. Mr. Carlyle's "History of the French Revolution" is, in some of its chapters, romantic in the same sense as this story is, and a good deal also in "Victor Hugo." The real peculiarity of the novel lies here; for if it had not been Mr. Buchanan's intention to enclose within a semi-mystical, symbolic, or romantic medium, charged with weird and visionary hints of the tragical powers that lie sealed in trivial events and in trivial persons as affecting the larger movements of human destiny, he would, we think, have found himself driven to embody his conception in a condensed and elevated form of verse, instead of the slower and more complicated prose form. One lesson which he clearly means to enforce is that destiny is not finally on the side of the big battalion, but on the side of true ideas, however much the individual may suffer in the process of faithfully upholding them, as does his hero in this case, who, though he failed by some inexplicable cause to execute his grim plan of vengeance on the great Napoleon personally, yet was fully avenged, as wearied and spent with his trials he looked over the waste of waters to the "imprisoned eagle" on his rock of St. Helena. If this idea is not kept in view, touches here and there will inevitably seem a little forced. But from the story, in the midst of the supernatural and legendary which the author has shown himself well able to take advantage of, a very good idea might be gained of the kind of life that was passed by thousands in the remote villages of France when the thought of Napoleon was either all-inspiring or only paralyzing.

Kromlaix is a village on the coast of Brittany, and we are introduced to Rohan Gwenfern and his cousin Marcelle—a beautiful maiden—engaged in exploring one of the caverns or rock cathedrals which here run into the land, even under Kromlaix itself. It is the year 1813, when Napoleon is endeavouring to refill his ranks, decimated by the Russian snows. Rohan has learned *ideas* from one Arfoll, a hedge schoolmaster; and though personally brave, he has resolved not to fight, for, from conviction, he loves peace and hates the Emperor. This is the one point on which he and his cousin Marcelle are not at one; for Marcelle's romantic devotion to the Emperor has been fed by close companionship with her old uncle, a corporal of Napoleon's, who had lost a limb at Austerlitz, and simply worships the Little Corporal; and it is here that one of the leading motives of the love-story is found—Marcelle being divided between her faith to the Emperor and her love for Rohan, who has defied and denounced him. There is a new conscription, and Rohan is drawn. He will not serve; instead he disappears, and is believed to be dead,

* A Handy Book on the Eastern Question. Being a very Recent View of Turkey. By Sir GEORGE CAMPBELL, M.P. (London: John Murray.)

* The Shadow of the Sword. A Romance. By ROBERT BUCHANAN. Three vols. (R. Bentley and Son.)

though he has hidden himself in the caves, which he explores to their innermost, making several new discoveries. Scouts are out in search of him, but they fail to seize him. It is not, however, till a flood breaks out, almost submerging Kromlaix, that he comes forth at risk of life itself to save Marcelle and many others, and to make those who had dubbed him coward now call him hero, and believe in some other reason for his defiance than fear. But, having done his work he retreats to his cave again—a man with a price on his head. But now that the stigma of cowardice is removed from him, Marcelle is not half-ashamed of her love as she had been—though she had always been faithful, as Melkel Grallen, Rohan's rival, knew when he tried to press his suit with her after Rohan had disappeared. So another period of painful trial passes over, the battle of Leipsic has been fought, Paris captured, and the Emperor has abdicated. All difficulties being now removed, Rohan and Marcelle are about to be married, when suddenly Napoleon triumphantly marches on Paris, disturbing the peace of France and of Kromlaix once more. We shall not tell how Rohan in weakness of mind, induced by his long sufferings in the cave and his despair, seeks to avenge himself on the Emperor, or how he fails to do so. These things the reader must learn from the book itself. There he will find all Mr. Buchanan's fine descriptive power, no less than his rare faculty of blending the real and the ideal, and his subtle manner of throwing back on life the superstitious ideas and fancies of those who move in it. Added to all this, as we have said, there is the keen, close study of character. The old corporal is simply exquisite, and so is Arfoll—a type of the French humanitarian, full of ideas and enthusiastic in communicating them; and, though hating superstition, less in itself than because it makes people tolerate tyrants really religious, certain to gain great influence over young minds like that of Rohan Gwernfern. If now and then there is a slight sense of strain, it is well justified by the keen eye for dramatic issues, both as they affect the individual characters and the wider interests of humanity. In a word, Mr. Buchanan has given us a romantic epic of the Napoleonic period. It was a bold and a trying theme; but he has adequately treated it, and has worked it up to a close truly grand and touching. We have left ourselves no space for extracts, but this description of Kromlaix is so good that we cannot part from the work without quoting it:—

For miles and miles on either side stretches the great ocean wall, washed and worn into grandest forms of archway, dome, and spire, beaten against, storm-stricken, undermined, gnawed, torn, rent, stricken by whirlwind and earthquakes, yet still standing, with its members and dolmens firm and strong; a mighty line of weed-hung scours, precipices, and crags, of monoliths and dark aerial caves, towering above the ever-restless sea—so high that, to him who walks above on the grassy edges of the crags, the sea-gull hovering midway is a speck, and the dark seaweed gatherers on the sands beneath are dwarfed by distance small as crawling mice. For many a league stretches the great sea-wall, and the wayfarer threading its dizzy paths bears underneath his feet the rush and roar of water, and the flapping wings of winds, and the screams of birds from foam-splashed gulfs. But here, suddenly, the wall, rent apart as if by earthquakes, leaves one mighty gap; and in the gap (which widening inward turns into a grassy vale fed by dark river) the village crouches, winter and summer, changeless through the generations, with its eyes ever fixed on the changeless sea.

A village ever doomed and ever saved. For the river, when it reaches the town of Kar Léon, plunges into the earth and mingles with the increeping ocean, and so crawls onward unseen; and the houses are verily rocked upon the waves, which moan sullenly beneath them, and the fountains are brackish wherever they burst, and the village trembles and cries like a living thing when the vials of heaven are opened, and the great sea threatens with some mighty tide.

That day, however, while Master Arfoll gazed down, all was brightness and peace. In and about the boats children played, while the men lounged in twos and threes, or lay smoking on the sands, or lazily sat in the sunlight mending their nets. The smoke went up straight to heaven, and heaven was calm. All was quite still, but you could hear the village just breathing, like a creature at rest.

Higher up the valley, and partly on a rising slope, stood, surrounded by its graveyard, the little red granite church, with its stone-tiled roof and ruddy tower crusted with dark green mosses, and a hoary rime of salt blown from the sea. The sunlight struck along the gorge, so that even from the height they could see the rude group of the Calvary close by, the stone head of the Christ drooping in death, the little wells of holy water sparkling on the tombstones, and along the wall of the charnel-house the dark dots where the skulls of the dead, each in its little pigeon-box, were nailed up as a ghastly memento mori.

DR. MACKAY'S RECOLLECTIONS.*

These two volumes are very appetising. If it cannot be said that Dr. Mackay is always

* *Forty Years' Recollections of Life, Literature, and Public Affairs, from 1830-1870.* By CHARLES MACKAY, LL.D., author of "Egeria," &c., &c. In two vols. (Chapman and Hall.)

strictly correct, or in every instance wholly escapes the temptation to be egotistic, we must honestly confess that he knows how to be interesting. In his lengthened career, he has come across many notabilities, and he has been careful to observe and to keep record. From the time when—a young man, unable to see his way into any of the learned professions—he sought a road into literature by passing his verses under the famous Edward Irving's scrutiny, down to the time when he himself became a sage counsellor to young poets, he has been in one way or other in the main current, and has always had a sharp eye for a great or original character. He was at first on the *Morning Chronicle*, in its grand days under John Black—that prince of journalists—and has much to tell of the *Chronicle* clique, no less than of the Anti-corn Leaguers. Then he proceeded to edit the *Glasgow Argus*, and was thus brought into contact with some of the most distinguished Scotchmen—fighting in a very pronounced and individual way on the Liberal side there, till a difference with the proprietors, but one wholly creditable to him, led to his return to London. Then he was for a time reattached to the *Morning Chronicle* as a special correspondent in its last days, and after that he was correspondent of the *Times* in America. It will thus be seen at once that, quite apart from his reputation as a poet, Dr. Mackay has been distinguished in society, and may claim to be a man of the world as well as a man of letters. He was a frequent guest at the breakfast table of Samuel Rogers—of whom we have a very pleasant sketch—was on familiar terms with Thomas Campbell and Thomas Moore, visited Wordsworth, and was in personal contact with Charles Dickens at the very outset of his brilliant career. He was intimate with Sir Bulwer Lytton, and was friendly with Thackeray; notwithstanding that the author of "Vanity Fair" made rather free with his name for a rhyme on one occasion, just as he made free with the name of another who figures here—poor Angus Reach, so brilliant and yet so ill-fated.

In one respect, however, it must be said that the book suffers a little from the way in which political interests are mingled with literary ones, and the half-cynical tone which too often appears when, on many accounts, it had better have been absent. What we mean is that, in too many instances, we are reluctantly forced to believe that Dr. Mackay's interest in the distinguished men whom he met, at all events latterly, was not of the disinterested kind which Sainte Beuve and Matthew Arnold and others are so inclined to magnify. He did not care so much to know their history, or to follow up the line of their development, as to gain personal relationships. As an instance, we find him in a chapter on Nathaniel Hawthorne speaking with the utmost air of authority about Thoreau, the American naturalist, reflecting the common opinion about him, and that in a very pronounced way, when it is evident that, if he had read, he had failed to remember, some of the leading points even of that book, had never seen another writing of Thoreau, and was all in the dark as to whether Thoreau is at this day dead or living. Then he makes a fatal mistake about Hawthorne, and used a certain word about a certain friend of Hawthorne's in a complimentary sense, which had he but read with ordinary care the very chapter of the book which he is professing to correct, he would have found to be so inapplicable as to be likely only to give pain. Besides, had he seen the point we are now urging, he would have got a glimpse of a trait in Hawthorne which, in spite of personal contact, he has absolutely missed. Then his account of De Quincey is so confused that we really cannot credit it. Dr. Mackay says that he met De Quincey in 1845 at Professors J. P. Nichol's, in Glasgow. He speaks of this as being in the last days of the old man, who was, in Dr. Mackay's own words, "at this time near upon, or upwards of eighty years of age." Now, De Quincey was born in 1785, so that in 1845 he was in his sixtieth year. He never saw his eightieth year, instead of being "upwards of" it in 1845; but died in 1869, in his seventy-fifth year. After the date at which Dr. Mackay says he saw him in Glasgow, he lived for fifteen years, and would, on Dr. Mackay's way of putting it, have been a centenarian. He wrote a great deal and revised the fourteen volumes of his collected works after 1845. Now, here we have such looseness as to facts, and such crass ignorance of the chronology of De Quincey's life (which any man could have satisfied himself about by reference to a biographical dictionary), that really Dr. Mackay must excuse our saying that his memory must be somewhat at fault, and his mind confused about many things.

Nor is he more satisfactory—much as he seems to have seen of the world and of men—in the general ideas he would give us of human nature. We put aside the fact that all that he does say on the point we are now to deal with is unverified gossip. Of the facts of the case Dr. Mackay had no direct personal knowledge whatever, though he speaks with as great an air of authority as though he had. He would have us to believe that one of De Quincey's landladies in Edinburgh, whom he was unable to pay for arrears of rent, tracked him from lodging to lodging; and, knowing his ways, and his times for being out, under one pretext or another, got access to his rooms, and carried off his papers, not once but repeatedly. We have had some experience of Edinburgh landladies, and we can assure Dr. Mackay that we did not find them so simple or so mutually accommodating as this would imply. Like a certain fishwoman, of whom Norman Macleod was wont to tell with great humour, they could "stand on the heid o' their own fish." To let a rival into their houses, to persecute their lodger, and carry off his goods wholesale, would not only have been foolish—beneath the unselfish folly even of rural landladies, for it would have been transparently reducing their own chances of payment—but it would have been criminal to boot, as a breach of trust in reference to what had been placed or left under their protection. We have looked at the matter in many ways before trusting ourselves to impeach Dr. Mackay's knowledge of human nature and the world; but we cannot help thinking that in this case he has not shown his usual discriminating wisdom, and has been—not to put too fine a point upon it—simply hoaxed or imposed upon.

But, notwithstanding, some undoubted loosenesses of this kind, which suffice to show how much better Dr. Mackay could have made this book had he only taken more pains, there is much in it that is valuable. Few things could be more characteristic in their way than the account he gives us of his interview with Wordsworth at Rydal Mount in the poet's later years:—

I presented myself at Rydal Mount about noon. . . . and found the poet walking in his garden, commanding a beautiful view over Grasmere and the hills, or rather mountains, that enclosed and shut in that picturesque little lake. Mr. Wordsworth at this time had turned his seventy-sixth year, and walked somewhat feebly with the aid of a stick. He welcomed me very courteously, and asked me to excuse him for receiving me out of doors, as he preferred the open air, and for walking somewhat slowly, as a few days previously he had strained his foot by stumbling over a molehill. I reminded him that William III. had died from an accident of a similar kind, and expressed my gratification to see that in the present case the result had not been so serious. He suddenly said, I thought somewhat ungraciously, "I am told you write poetry. I never read a line of your poems, and I don't intend." I suppose I looked a little surprised at the apparent rudeness of this, for he went on to say—"You must not be offended with me; the truth is I never read anybody's poetry but my own." Again, I suppose my face must have expressed what I certainly felt—a slight degree of wonder at a declaration which I thought so very gratuitous. "You must not be surprised," he added, "for it is not vanity that makes me say this. I am an old man, and little time is left one in this world. I use that little as well as I may, to revise all my poems carefully, and make them as perfect as I can before I take my final departure." It was quite evident from the frankness of this explanation, that the old gentleman did not mean to wound my self-love while explaining and vindicating his own, and I could but take in good part the confidence he had reposed in me. Desiring to turn the conversation, I stopped a moment in our walk to admire the outline of the picturesque mountain across the lake, and pointing to it, asked its name. "Dear me," he replied, "that's Nab Scaur. Have you never read my poems?" It was on the tip of my tongue to retort that I never read anybody's poems but my own, but I reflected that he was old enough to be my grandfather, and not only that, but how untrue the statement would have been! So I refrained, and listened attentively as he spoke. "I have described Nab Scaur more than once in my poems. Don't you remember the following?" (And here he recited in a deep bass voice a passage of twenty or thirty lines, which was entirely new to me, though I did not like to tell him so. . . . I spent about three hours in the garden, and was not asked inside—three pleasant hours, however, though I could not but regretfully see that the fires of that once clear and gentle intellect were burning somewhat dimly, and that the end could not be far off.

A most painful feature in the account of Wordsworth is the picture of his poor sister, now aged and imbecile—which Wordsworth told Dr. Mackay "to turn away from as an unpleasant sight." Dr. Mackay gives it as his opinion that Wordsworth was in great measure to blame for his sister's condition, in submitting her to such seclusion as her mind was unable to bear, though his was.

On the whole the book, though in parts somewhat disappointing, is racy and full of attractive matter. Dr. Mackay knows how to tell an anecdote—as witness that of the Sabbath keeping Glasgow bailie—and manages to interweave much that is really instructive with what is light, lively, and gossipy.

RECENT AMERICAN COMMENTARIES.

(1) HACKETT ON THE ACTS.—Professor Hackett's "Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles" has long been known to critical students of the New Testament, and much valued. Dr. Gloag, in the preface to his own "Commentary on the Acts," says:—"In America there is the admirable commentary of Dr. Hackett, decidedly the best work on the subject in the English language. The edition of it in this country, published by the Bunyan Society, is defective, and is rendered in a great degree worthless by the omission of many of Dr. Hackett's most valuable critical observations." The edition now before us is complete. Since the work was originally published the author has continued to study the Acts, both privately and as the teacher of theological classes. It has likewise been of service to him that he has been able to visit the countries in which the Saviour and the apostles lived, and the cross gained its earliest victories. The journey, he tells us, has made it tenfold more a labour of love to trace again the footsteps of Paul and his associates, and should add something to the interpreter's power to unfold the history of their sufferings and triumphs. As the result of continued study, Professor Hackett says, the view taken of some passages has been modified; expressions found to be obscure have been made plainer; new points in the text have been elucidated; former explanations of a debateable character, according to the apparent evidence in the case, have been placed in a stronger light, or advanced with less confidence; and, in general, pains have been taken in this revised form to render the notes not less critical than before, and yet freer and more varied in their contents. In order to all this the original edition has been in parts rewritten, and, also, enlarged by the addition of about a hundred pages. There are minute and carefully compiled indices, one to exhibit the contents of the notes as distinguished for the most part from the contents of the history, and a second contains the contents of the history and the pages of the commentary on which the sections may be found; which add greatly to the practical value of the work. But the absence of the text detracts considerably from the convenience of the student. Either the Greek original or a revised translation, in a continuous form, would have given completeness to the work.

Dr. Hackett discusses briefly the subjects which are usually included in an "Introduction," such as the authorship of the book, its authenticity, and its object and plan. All that could be said on these subjects within fifteen pages is said, and said well. Nor was it necessary for the purpose of the book that its author should enter into a detailed criticism of modern sceptical objections. These, as he says, relate chiefly to the supernatural character of the narrations of the Book. And it does not belong to the province of Biblical criticism to reply to such objections.

(2) ABBOTT ON THE ACTS.—This is the second volume of a commentary which Mr. Lyman Abbott proposes to write on the New Testament. We have already introduced the first volume, on Matthew and Mark, to our readers; Luke and John, we presume, are postponed to a "more convenient season." Mr. Abbott's work is not critical like Dr. Hackett's. "It aims to give the results rather than the processes of scholarship, the conclusions rather than the controversies of scholars; intended for laymen as well as clergymen, it accompanies the English version of the New Testament; in all references to the original Greek it gives the English equivalent, and translates all quotations from the French, German, Latin, and Greek authors." If Hackett and Abbott are studied together, preachers and other students will find all that they can require to enable them fully to understand the book of the "Acts of the Apostles." Even Abbott's alone will be a great help. Few readers will care for more. His "supplementary notes" are brief but comprehensive essays on the subjects to which they relate—such as Peter's Pentecostal Sermon, Communism in the Early Church, the case of Simon Magus, the Conversion of Saul, and many others. On some subjects which belong to the department of "Introduction," he writes more fully than his "critical" co-commentator. As, for example, on the interesting question—whence did Luke derive his reports of the speeches which constitute so important a part of his narrative? After reviewing the answers which

have been given to this question, Mr. Abbott says:—

"I suppose it probable that reports, more or less full, were taken at the time and preserved; that these written reports, or the memory of auditors, afforded Luke the material for his history; that composing his reports of speeches from this material he embodied it in the form of *verbatim* reports, according to the custom of his age, and in the manner still pursued by the skilful reporter of to-day, who often condenses into half a column the address of half an hour, and yet succeeds in preserving the style and even the very language of the orator; and that in this work Luke was so aided by the influence of the Holy Spirit that we have in all cases the substance, and, where it is important, the very words of the inspired speaker. It must be remembered that in an age of scant literature and much public speaking, hearers would naturally remember better than now, not only the substance, but even the very words, of memorable addresses; that they did so is made evident by classical literature. That Luke has sometimes condensed a long address into a short report, and yet given it in the words, or substantially the words, of the speaker, is indicated by Acts 2.40. The student must, however, bear in mind that these are only hypotheses, and that the New Testament itself is silent as to the method in which Luke prepared his history, or the material which he employed in its preparation.

On the subject of this extract Dr. Hackett is content to say:—

His (Luke's) extensive journeyings could hardly fail to have brought him into connection with most of the other persons who appear as actors in the history. Some of his information he derived, no doubt, from written sources. The official documents which he has inserted (15, 23, seq.; 23, 36, seq.), were public, and could have been copied. We assume nothing at variance with the habits of antiquity in supposing that the more extended discourses and speeches which Luke himself did not hear, may have been noted down by others at the time of their delivery, or soon afterwards, while the impression made by them was still vivid. If the writer of the Acts had any occasion for the use of such reports, his travels from one country to another must have given him access to the persons who could furnish them.

(3) ROBINSON ON JOB.—Dr. Robinson's preface dates from "Morpeth." But the book before us is evidently of American manufacture, from which we infer—our geographical knowledge not being sufficiently minute—that there is a Transatlantic as well as a Northumbrian Morpeth. But why should not English publishers be more explicit as to the American works on whose title-pages their names appear? Neither place of printing, nor name of printer, nor name of American publisher, nor anything else appears in this volume to indicate its origin. And, but for the unmistakably American letterpress, we should naturally look to our English Morpeth as the home of its author. This, however, does not affect the intrinsic character of the work.

The work, it appears, was originally intended to form part of Dr. Van Doren's "Suggestive and Homiletic Commentary on the Old and New Testaments," and consequently to be accompanied with critical notes similar to those in the Author's Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans, published in connection with that series. After sundry explanations, he says that in the preparation of his work he has availed himself of all the critical and practical aids within his reach, in order that it might exhibit the results of the studies of the most eminent Biblical scholars and expositors of the Word up to the present time. And this is evident throughout. It is the fruit of much earnest and prolonged study; and preachers will find in it a storehouse of suggestion and direction. The style and manner of the book can be explained only by quotation. Let two brief extracts suffice.

Of the feasting of Job's family and the Patriarch's happiness in his children (chap. i. 4, 5) we read:—

Their feasting, the medium of social intercourse and of maintaining friendly relations with each other, shows (1) the social habits of his children; (2) the love and harmony prevailing among them. An exemplification of Psalm cxxxiii. 1. Contrasted with the family of Adam (Genesis iv. 8); of Abraham (Genesis xxi. 9); of Isaac (Genesis xxvii. 41); of Jacob (Genesis xxxvii. 4); of David (2 Samuel xiii. 28).

"Feasting" lawful—when (1) moderate; (2) seasonable; (3) in the fear of God; (4) with thankful acknowledgment of his goodness; (5) without offence to others; (6) with charitable remembrance of the poor and needy (Luke xiv. 12-14; Eccles. iii. 4). The general rule of Christian feasting (1 Cor. x. 31). Its limitation (Rom. xiv. 20, 21; 1 Cor. viii. 13; x. 32, 33). Unseasonable times for feasting (Amos vi. 4-6; Joel ii. 16; Is. xxii. 12, 13). Christ's presence and miracle at Cana a sanction to special seasons of temperate festivity (John ii. 1-11). The creature given not only for necessity but delight (Psalm civ. 14, 15).

Job's sons feasted (1) in their own houses; indicating their wealth, order, harmony—and also the maturity of their age. Enhances the calamity of their death. (2) "Each on his own day," i.e., his birthday, or the day on which it was his turn to entertain the rest. Birthdays in the East days of great rejoicing (Gen. xl. 20; Matt. xiv. 6) (3) They sent and called for their "three sisters," supposed, like women in the East, to be living with their mother, in their own tent or apartment (Gen. xxiv. 67; xxxi. 33, 34; Esther ii. 9-14). Beau-

tiful picture of fraternal harmony and affection. Proof of how Job had trained up his family.

Dr. Robinson has many episodes in his commentary on kindred or suggested topics, some doctrinal, some practical, some merely antiquarian or historical. Take the following, on Chapter xxi. 12:—

Music, one of God's choicest earthly blessings. Its influence beneficial on the individual and the household. Its effects on man's nature manifold and important. Rests fatigue. Relieves pain. Subdues passion. Soothes suffering. Mitigates sorrow. Allays nervous irritation. Resists melancholy. Saul's evil spirit yielded to the sweet sounds of David's harp (1 Sam. xvi. 23.) Inspires courage and inspirits the brave. The rousing strains of Highland bagpipes helped to win the day at Waterloo. Music, powerful in the conflict of life. A means of moral culture. Assists devotion. Calms and elevates the mind for the communion and reception of Divine truth. The prophet calls first for the aid of a minstrel (2 Kings iii. 15). Music a Divine art and heavenly employment. Heaven filled with music. Something of divinity in music more than the ear discovers (Sir T. Browne). The beneficial effect of soft and sweet sounds, especially of sacred music, upon the sick, an acknowledged fact. Music "whispered to the weary spirit," sometimes the only sound to be endured by the sick and sorrowful. Music to be consecrated to the glory of its Divine author, "A table without music little better than a manger," (Epictetus). Especially true of the song of praise and thanksgiving. Music, like other Divine gifts, often consecrated to the service of the god of this world. The enemy's object to make a sinful and worldly life as agreeable as possible. Helps men to forget death and a judgment to come in the sweet sounds of earthly music. Nero played on his harp while gazing on Rome in flames, the probable effect of his own wickedness.

BOOKS FOR THE SEASON.

VI.

"Ancient Streets and Homesteads of England"

(1) is one of the most interesting and beautiful books we have seen this season; and we hope that its somewhat late appearance may not militate against its reception. Mr. Rimmer does not lay down any very hard-and-fast method; but, starting from Chester, he makes a wide and liberal survey of the most striking and picturesque buildings and corners in England, pausing not only at such well-known spots as Shrewsbury and Exeter, Wells, Winchester, Cambridge, Leicester, Huntingdon, Canterbury, Rye, Wrexham, and Rochester; but quietly pausing and noting in more secluded corners many a rustic bridge and old house, which have some associations in the past. This seems to be the one guiding idea of the book—thus to connect place with event in the most pleasant way, and, while delighting the eye, to revive in the memory the main outlines of English history. The book is, in this respect, simply delightful. Scarcely could a better starting-point be made than from Chester. "The Rows" are the quaintest architectural productions to be seen in England. It will perhaps be remembered that Nathaniel Hawthorne, who at first found so much in England not to his taste, was drawn there over and over again as if by a kind of fascination; but we not sure that Mr. Rimmer's theory of their origin would have satisfied him. Mr. Rimmer says:—

There is, perhaps, no great strain of imagination required to give the original builders of Chester credit for seeing some of the advantages of rows for commercial purposes, and letting each building as it grew conform with its neighbour. Rows have been stopped and built up even in the present century, and in Lower Bridge-street something nearly approaching one has recently been formed. Again, it is very evident that some of the rows were not existing, at least in their present position, in the thirteenth century, and they must have been constructed since that time. Under all the circumstances, the simplest way out of the difficulty would seem to be that the rows were the result of some prevalent fashion of building more adventitious than anything else. A Roman portico may have suggested some form that was preserved in building, or some few spirited proprietors may have commenced this system without any combined action.

And we are sorry, when we find modern research is iconoclastic. Dean Howson says in the preface:—

I fear it must be admitted that the prison in which the author of the "Pilgrim's Progress" spent those days and nights that have enriched the world was not on the bridge over the Ouse, but in another part of Bedford. The jailer's door, by a most curious accident, survives, built into the wall of a granary, and with quite enough of character to deserve an engraving on descriptive pages.

We cannot afford the space to notice the many merits of this book in detail. Suffice it to say, that it is full of knowledge, the results of exact and faithful study, most readable and interesting, and that the illustrations are simply exquisite. Many of them have struck us as gems, and especially we may note those of Leicester Abbey, Norwich Precinct Gate, Wells Cathedral, Oswestry, and the Ancient Bridge, Huntingdon.

(1) By Alfred Rimmer, and an introduction by the Very Rev. J. S. Howson, D.D., Dean of Chester. With 150 illustrations from drawings by the Author. (Macmillan.)

(1) *A Commentary on the Original Text of the Acts of the Apostles.* By HOBATIO B. HACKETT, D.D., Professor of Biblical Literature in Newton Theological Institution. First complete British Edition. (London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co.)

(2) *The Acts of the Apostles.* With Notes, Comments, Maps, and Illustrations. By the Rev. LYMAN ABBOTT. (London: Hodder, Stoughton, and Co.)

(3) *Homiletical Commentary on the Book of Job.* By THOMAS ROBINSON, D.D. (London: Richard T. Dickinson.)

Mr. Kingston is literally indefatigable. He has not only given us several stories of his own, but he translates for us one of the most striking works of Jules Verne. The present story is one of adventure and Russian life (2). To follow Michel Strogoff through his varied career is to gain a vivid idea, not only of Russian manners and customs, but of Russian diplomacy and intrigue. But Jules Verne takes care to subordinate all this to incident, and his chapters are knit together by a singular interest of a powerful and thrilling kind. Some points in the passage of the Yenesei, too, are very touching. The illustrations are admirable, and altogether the book is a capital one to give to a boy as a Christmas or New Year's gift—for which purpose, we doubt not, it will be much in demand.

"James Daryl" (3) is a simple story, with some skilful touches of character, and one or two really pathetic turns. Mr. Errol and Miss Daryl have a reality about them, such as we often miss in stories of the kind, but we could wish that some of the closing incidents had been less sombre. It is neatly got up, and is superior to not a few Christmas books; for it has here and there a touch of nature and of art.

Bright Rays for Dull Days (4) is a well-prepared little album—a picture on one page and descriptive letterpress on the other—adapted for younger children. Some of the pictures are really beautiful, and the writing is simple and suited to its purpose.

Gleanings.

A little girl, showing her little cousin, about four years old, a star, said, "That star you see up there is bigger than this world." "No, it isn't," said he. "Yes, it is." "Then why doesn't it keep the rain off?"

An artist, while at dinner recently, was told of a man with three hands. "How is that?" asked he, "I should like to paint him." "Well, this is how it is," responded his informant. "He's got a little behind-hand."

GREEN CHRISTMAS.—The once-believed adage that "a green Christmas brings a full churchyard," is now an exploded delusion. Never was there a greener Christmas, and seldom has the death-rate been lower in proportion to the population at this season of the year. But though a green Christmas is unobjectionable, a wet one is hardly so, even on the score of health; and colds, toothache, and rheumatism, are particularly rife. Still less is the continued rain good for the land, especially when it results in floods, which now for the second time this winter are out in various parts of the country. No doubt, however, after the prolonged drought of last spring and summer, we have still a great deal of rain "due," if such a term be applicable, and it is much better to have it now than in the spring. Wheat will stand almost any quantity of wet at this time of year; but as soon as winter is over the crops on heavy soils begin to show the ill effects of an excess of moisture. Let us hope, then, that we are taking our dose now instead of in the spring; so we shall feel a little more cheerful under the dispiriting influence of this dull and dripping weather.—*Mark Lane Express.*

THROAT IRRITATION.—The throat and windpipe are especially liable to inflammation, causing soreness and dryness, tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use glycerine in the form of lozenges. Glycerine, in these agreeable confections, being in proximity to the glands at the throat they are excited by the act of sucking, becomes actively healing. Sold only in 6d. and 1s. boxes (by post for 1s. stamps), labelled, "JAMES EYRE and Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, 48, Threadneedle-street, and 170, Piccadilly, London."

"GIVEN AWAY."—A POCKET ALMANAC for 1877, sent free per post, on sending address to Messrs. Horniman, Tea Importers, London, or had *Gratis* of their Agents, chemists and confectioners. The Almanac shows views of Messrs. Horniman's "tea plantation in China" and "shipping of Horniman's tea to England." 3,538 Agents sell this celebrated Pocket Tea, which has been in great demand for forty years.

RECKITT'S PARIS BLUE.—The marked superiority of this Laundry Blue over all others, and the quick appreciation of its merits by the public has been attended by the usual result—viz., a flood of imitations. The merit of the latter mainly consists in the ingenuity exerted, not simply in imitating the square shape, but making the general appearance of the wrappers resemble that of the genuine article. The manufacturers beg therefore to caution all buyers to see "Reckitt's Paris Blue" on each packet.

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(2) *Nichel Strogoff: the Courier of the Czar.* By JULES VERNE. Translated by W. H. G. KINGSTON. With numerous illustrations. (Sampson Low and Co.)

(3) *James Daryl.* By the Author of "Undeceived," "A Voice from the Sea," &c. (James W. Allingham.)

(4) Cassell, Potter, and Galpin.

THOUSANDS are unable to take Cocoa because the varieties commonly sold are mixed with starch, under the plea of rendering them soluble; while, really making them thick, heavy, and indigestible. This may be easily detected, for if cocoa thickens in the cup it proves the addition of starch. Cadbury's Cocoa Essence is genuine; it is therefore three times the strength of these cocoas, and a refreshing beverage like tea or coffee.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

[A uniform charge of One Shilling (prepaid) is made for announcements under this heading, for which postage-stamps will be received. All such announcements must be authenticated by the name and address of the sender.]

BIRTH.

BYLES.—Dec. 23, at Richmond-road, Headingley, the wife of the Rev. A. Holden Byles, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

GREENFIELD—DRAPER.—Dec. 21, at the Wesleyan Chapel, Acton, by the Rev. Mr. Walker, John William Greenfield, late of Painsburn, Cornhill, Northumberland, to Hannah Bell Draper, second daughter of Henry J. Draper, of Great Titchfield-street, and Acton.

KIRKBY—SWALLOW.—Dec. 21, at the Methodist New Connexion Chapel, Woodhouse-lane, Leeds, by the Rev. C. D. Ward, William Kirkby, Harrogate, to Rachel, eldest daughter of Abm. Swallow, Leeds.

NICHOLSON—PILKINGTON.—Dec. 21, at Sion Chapel, Wakefield, by Rev. J. R. Wolstenholme, Mr. William Nicholson to Emma, daughter of Mr. George Pilkington, Garden-street, both of Wakefield.

RUSTON—EKINS.—Dec. 21, at the Congregational Church, Brixton, by the Rev. J. Baldwin Brown, B.A., Arthur Ruston, Esq., of Chatteris, Cambs., to Martha, daughter of the late Thomas Ekins, Esq., of Warboys, Hunts.

SUSSUM—WILLIAMS.—Dec. 23, at Union Chapel, Oxford-road, Manchester, by the Rev. Alexander M'Laren, B.A., Algar, eldest son of Henry Sussum, to Ellen Appleton, only daughter of Daniel Appleton Williams, all of that city.

DEATHS.

OVERBURY.—Dec. 22, after a few days' illness, at 35, Highbury-place, Benjamin Overbury, in the 72nd year of his age.

PEARSALE.—Dec. 22, at Mentone, France, after a short illness, the Rev. John Spencer Pearsall, formerly minister of Eccleston Congregational Chapel, Pimlico, aged 64.

BRAY.—Dec. 8, at Montreal, of congestion of the brain, Florence Blanche, wife of the Rev. A. J. Bray, late of Manchester, a daughter of the Rev. Edwin J. Harland, of Bristol, in her 27th year.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—A certain cure for headaches, bile, loss of appetite, and lowness of spirits.—These pills can be taken without danger from wet or cold, and require no interruption from business or pleasure. They act mildly on the bowels, strengthen the stomach, and promote a healthy action of the liver, whereby they purify the blood, cleanse the skin, brace the nerves, and invigorate the whole system. They effect a truly wonderful change in a debilitated constitution, as they create a healthy appetite, correct indigestion, remove bile, giddiness, headache, and palpitation of the heart. Plain directions for the use of this medicine, at once so mild and efficacious, are affixed to each box.

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Christmas, 1876.

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The School for Young Ladies, which was commenced nearly
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The young ladies will return after the Christmas vacation,
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A large Swimming-bath is now provided on the college
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TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT,
MAY, 1876.
2,154 Policies issued for £436,700
New Annual Income 13,054
21,151 Policies in force for 3,724,432
Annual Premium Income 116,753
305 Death Claims, Matured Policies, and
Bonuses 54,959
From commencement paid for Claims 350,828
Laid by in the year 39,567
Amount of Accumulated Fund 439,842
Average Reversionary Bonus for 21 years, 1½ per cent.
per annum.

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The NEXT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION will take
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There are a few VACANCIES.
The College has been founded in order to enable Students
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It is soft, light, and durable, elastic, flexible, and per-
manently magnetic.

TESTIMONIALS.
From GARTH WILKINSON, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.S.E.
76, Wimpole-street, London, W.,
March, 1874.
F. W. Darlow, Esq.
Sir,—I am able to certify that I have
used your Magnetine Appliances pretty
largely in my practice, and that in per-
sonal convenience to my patients they
are unexceptionable, and far superior to
any other inventions of the kind which
I have employed; and that of their effi-
cacy, their positive powers, I have no
doubt. I have found them useful in con-
stipation, in abdominal congestion, in
neuralgia, and in many cases involving
weakness of the spine, and of the great
organs of the abdomen. In the public
interest I wish you to use my unquali-
fied testimony in favour of your Magnetine
Appliances.
I remain, yours faithfully,
GARTH WILKINSON,
M.D., M.R.C.S.E.

From the Rev. Dr. KERHANAN, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.
Sec., Editor of "Dickinson's Theological Quarterly."
St. Alban's, March 22, 1874.

To Messrs. Darlow and Co.
GENTLEMEN,—I have pleasure in stating that I have
derived much benefit from the use of your Magnetine Chest
and Throat Protector, which I have been wearing since the
close of the year 1874, having adopted it after a severe attack
of quinsy, from which I have been ever since happily free.
I am also glad to inform you that two ladies of my acquain-
tance, who had suffered much from bronchial irritation, have
experienced much benefit from having a "Protector." I
think it right to make you acquainted with these facts, and
I give you liberty to use this note as you think proper.—
Yours truly,
JAMES KERHANAN.

ADDITIONAL TESTIMONIAL FROM GARTH WILKIN-
SON, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.S.E.
76, Wimpole-street, Cavendish-square, W.,
June 15, 1876.

F. W. Darlow, Esq.
Sir,—Since March, 1874, when I wrote to you to express
my opinion, from experience, of the value of your Magnetine
Appliances, I have been frequently asked by letter if my
certificate was genuine, and if in the time since elapsed your
inventions still approved themselves as beneficial in my
practice. To both those questions I can answer by endorsing
Magnetine as an arm which I am obliged to resort to in a
good many cases.
In addition to the cases I before specified I can now add
some experience of the utility of Magnetine in cases of de-
bility, and as a local remedy in painful affections arising in
the course of gout. Indeed, I am accustomed to prescribe it
wherever topical weakness proceeds from a low vitality in
the great nervous centres, or in the principal organs of as-
similation, nutrition, and blood purification; also to weak
throats from nervous exhaustion affecting the larynx.—I am,
Sir, yours faithfully,
GARTH WILKINSON, M.D., M.R.C.S.E.

From the Rev. HENRY BUDD.
Wesleyan Parsonage, Greyouth, New
Zealand, July 22, 1876.
To Messrs. Darlow & Co.
GENTLEMEN,—It is now about four
months since I began to use your
Magnetine Throat Band, and I have
found great benefit from the use of it.
The benefit was immediate, and has
continued. The night huskiness, the
result of a bronchial attack, has now
altogether disappeared.
I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
HENRY BUDD.

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Many sufferers have failed to obtain relief from Magnetism
from no other cause than that the magnetic power of the
articles worn by them has been too feeble to reach the morbid
parts. Messrs. Darlow and Co., therefore, in consequence of
complaints they are continually receiving, feel it incumbent
upon them to warn the public against many appliances made
in imitation of the genuine MAGNETINE Appliances, but
which, on examination, are found to be articles of very in-
ferior manufacture.
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Flexible MAGNETIC Appliances during the past Ten
Years is evidence of their appreciation by the public; and
the testimony of gentlemen of the highest standing in the
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other inventions of a similar character for curative purposes;
and experience has proved that in many intricate cases,
where ordinary treatment has failed, the disorders have
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